At *Edinburgh* the 7th. day of *November* 1690. post merid: Sess. 21.

THe General *Assembly considering the great Necessity and Usefulness of having a settled Printer, for Printing their Acts and other Papers belonging to this Church and Her Assemblies, who will Manage that Work Faithfully and Exactly: Have by their Vote made Choice of* George Mosman *Stationer, to be only Printer to the Assemblies: And allows the present* Clerk *of this Assembly, and all Subsequent Clerks during their Time, to give in to the said* George Mosman *Exact and Accurate Copies of what Acts and other Papers shall be thought fit by this, or other Assemblies to be Printed; as he and they will be answerable to the General Assemblies of this Church. Extracted from the Records of the Assembly, per me*

Jo. Spalding Clr Sti National.

At *Edinburgh* the 21st. day of November 1690

ANent *the Petition given in to the Lords of Their Majesties Privy Council be* George Mosman *Stationer in* Edinburgh; *Shewing, That where the* General Assembly *by their Act of the date the seventh day of* November *current, Narrating, that they had considered the great Necessity and Usefulness of having a Settled Printer, for Printing their Acts, and other Papers belonging to this Church and her Assemblies; And had by their Vote made Choice of the Petitioner to be only Printer to the Assemblies: And have allowed the present and subsequent Clerks of Assemblies to give him exact and accurat Copies, of what Acts and other Papers, shall be thought fit by the Assemblies to be Printed; As the said Act of the date foresaid, bears. And therefore humbly Craving that the Council would Find and Declare, (conform to the above Act of Assembly) that the Petitioner has the only Right to Print the Acts and other Papers belonging to this Church and her Assemblies: And to Ordain the Petitioner to be the Only and Sole Printer of such Acts of Privy Council as are Relative to, or Necessary for the better Execution of the Acts of the General Assembly, with all Orders relative thereto, and necessary to be Printed; And to Discharge all others from Printing of the same, As the said Petition bears: Which, with the Act of the Assembly produced therewith, being considered be the saids Lords of Privy Council. They Hereby Find and Declare that the said* George Mosman *has the Only Right to Print the Acts, and other Papers belonging to this Church and her Assemblies; And Discharges all others from Printing the same. Extracted by me*

Gilb. Eliot Clr. Sti. Con;

At *Edinburgh* the 7th. day of *November* 1690. post merid: Sess. 21.

THe General *Assembly considering the great Necessity and Usefulness of having a settled Printer, for Printing their Acts and other Papers belonging to this Church and Her Assemblies, who will Manage that Work Faithfully and Exactly: Have by their Vote made Choice of* George Mosman *Stationer, to be only Printer to the Assemblies: And allows the present* Clerk *of this Assembly, and all Subsequent Clerks during their Time, to give in to the said* George Mosman *Exact and Accurate Copies of what Acts and other Papers shall be thought fit by this, or other Assemblies to be Printed; as he and they will be answerable to the General Assemblies of this Church. Extracted from the Records of the Assembly, per me*

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Gilb. Eliot Clr. Sti. Con;

J.W.auderson. 1867.

THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE General Assembly OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,

Conveened at *Edinburgh* the 16*th*. day of *October* 1690.

Collected and Extracted from the Records of the said Assembly By the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH,
Printed by *George Mosman*, Printer to the CHURCH of *Scotland* and Her ASSEMBLIES *Anno Domini* M DC XCI.

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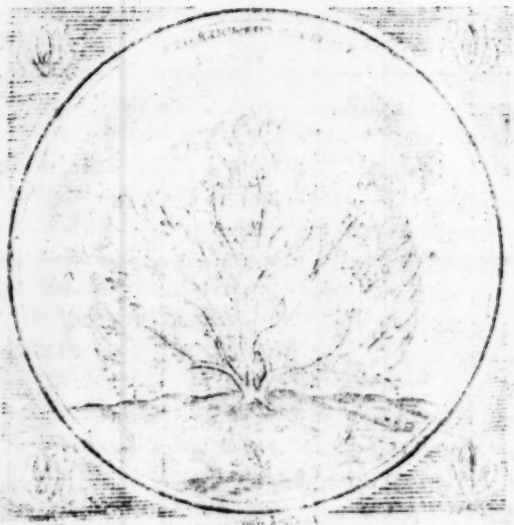

THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE General Assembly OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,

Holden and Begun at *Edinburgh* the 16*th* day of *October* 1690. And ending the 13*th* day of *November* next thereafter.

1.

The Meeting of the General Assembly, *and the Recording of Their Majesties* Commission, *to* John *Lord* Carmichael, *for Representing Their Majesties therein.*

Edinburgh 16 *of October* 1690. *Post Meridiem.* Sess. 1.

THis day, being a day of Solemn Fasting and Humiliation, the General Assembly of the Ministers and Elders of this Church; did after Sermons (in the Forenoon by Mr. *Gabriel Cuningham* Moderator of the last General Meeting, and in the Afternoon by Mr. *Patrick Sympson* Moderator of the Preceeding General Meeting) Conveen in the Assembly-House at *Edinburgh*, according to the Indiction of an Act of the Current Parliament, dated the 7 day of *June* last, and

Directions given by the late General Meeting of the Miniſters and Elders of this Church: And after Prayer, there was produced to them, by an Noble Lord *John* Lord *Carmichael*, Their Majeſties Commiſſion, for his being Their Majeſties High Commiſſioner and Repreſentative to this General Aſſembly, Dated at *Kenſington*, the 10 day of *October* 1690. Which was with all due Reſpect publickly read: And Mr. *Gabriel Cuningham*, Moderator for the time, did in the Aſſemblies Name, Repreſent to his Grace, how Great a Mercy it was, to this Church and Kingdom, that Their Majeſties had Countenanced this Aſſembly with Their Authority, and Honoured it with a Repreſentative of Their Royal Perſons: And the Aſſemblies great Satisfaction, with Their Majeſties choice of a perſon ſo well Qualified, and ſo Acceptable to this Aſſembly, to Repreſent Their Majeſties therein. To whom His Grace was pleaſed to give this return, That it was his firſt Reſolution, in the Capacity wherein Their Majeſties had now put him, to lay out himſelf for their Majeſties Service, and the Good of the Church. The Aſſembly appointed the ſaid Commiſſion to be Recorded in Their Books, *Ad futurum rei Memoriam*: The Tenour whereof follows.

GULIELMUS & *MARIA*, Dei Gratia, Magnæ *Britanniæ*, *Franciæ* & *Hiberniæ*, Rex & Regina, Fideique Defenſores, Omnibus probis Hominibus, ad quos præſentes Literæ Noſtræ pervenerint, *Salutem*. Quandoquidem per actum, in ſecunda Seſſione Currentis hujus noſtri Parliamenti, Expeditum, De ſtabiliendo Eccleſiæ Regimine, in antiquiori hoc noſtro Scotiæ Regno; Primum Eccleſiæ illius Generalem Conventum, *Edinburgi*, Tertio die Jovis, Menſis *Octobris* Inſtantis, teneri Ordinavimus: Nos autem (Rebus magni Momenti alio vocantibus) In dicto Conventu intereſſe nequimus: Abunde vero Cupidi, ut Idem Generalis Conventus, ad Religionem veram Reformatam melius firmandam, Pietatem & Sanctitatem Propagandam, Pacem itaque & Unitatem, in dicta Eccleſia, & hoc noſtro antiquiore Regno acquirendam; methodo debita & Regulari, Obſervetur: Cumque Teſtimoniis perplurimis & probatis, nobis abunde ſatisfactum ſit, de Præclaris animi dotibus & fide Eximia, fideliſſimi & dilectiſſimi noſtri Conſiliarii, *Joannis* Domini *Carmichael*, quibus ad ſummæ fiduciæ Munus infra expreſſum, debite & exacte obeundum & exercendum, uſque quaque eſt adaptatus: Noveritis igitur nos Nominaſſe & Conſtituiſſe, ſicuti per haſce noſtras Patentes Literas, Nominamus & Conſtituimus Eundem *Joannem* Dominum *Carmichael*, Supremum noſtrum Commiſſionarium, quoad effectum infra expreſſum: Damus pariter & concedimus illi, ſacram Noſtram Perſonam & Authoritatem Regiam Repræſentandi, ac pro nobis præſentiam faciendi, locumque noſtrum

ſtrum in ſubſequenti Generali Conventu, Tanquam Commiſſionario noſtro, in hunc effectum ſpecialiter Conſtituto, tenendi: Omniſque alia ad Impetum & Munus Commiſſionarii, pro Generali Eccleſiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in quovis Reſpectu, quàm Quilibet alius ejuſdem Muneris & Characteris, fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore retroacto facere potuerat, atque adeo ſicuti Noſmet ipſi perſonaliter præſentes eſſemus, Plenißimam & ampliſſimam Noſtram Poteſtatem, & Commiſſionem. Quæquidem omnia & ſingula, a dicto *Joanne* Domino *Carmichael*, In hac noſtra Commiſſione proſequenda, legitime peragenda, Nos firmiter approbamus, Rata habemus, & habituri ſumus. Omnibus & ſingulis inſuper antedicti Conventus, & Eccleſiæ Paſtoribus & Presbyteris, ac Cæteris quibuſcumque hujus Noſtri Regni Subditis, cujuſcunque ordinis ſeu conditionis, ut eundem *Joannem* Dominum *Carmichael*, tanquam Supremum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium, quoad effectum & modum ſupra mentionatum, agnoſcant, Colant, & dicto ipſius audientes ſe præbeant, ſtricte Mandamus & Imperamus. Et denique hanc Noſtram Commiſſionem, a die quo Magnum hujus Regni Noſtri Sigillum, Preſentibus eſt appenſum, ac durante Prima dicti Generalis Conventus Seſſione, aut uſque donec hæc Noſtra Commiſſio per nos Revocetur, Continuare Declaravimus, ac per Præſentes Declaramus. In cujus rei Teſtimonium, Præſentibus Magnum Sigillum Noſtrum appendi Mandavimus, Apud aulam Noſtram de *Kenſingtoun*, decimo die menſis *Octobris*, Anno Domini 1690. Regnique noſtri, Anno ſecundo.

Per ſignaturam manu S. D. N. Regis ſupra ſignatam.

(locus ſigilli appenſi)

IN DORSO:

Sealed at Edinburgh *the* 16*th. of* October 1690.
Alex. Inglis.

Written to the Great Seal, and Regiſtrat the 16*th. day of* October 1690, Dun. Ronald *Dpt.*

II.

His MAJESTIES *Gracious Letter to the Assembly,*

Edinburgh 17 October 1690. *Ante Meridiem*, Sess. 2.

This Session, His Majesties Gracious Letter Direct to this General Assembly, was publickly Read and Heard with great Respect; and appointed to be Recorded in the Books of the Assembly, The Tenour whereof follows.

WILLIAM R.

Reverend, Trusty and Well Beloved,

OUR Concern for the Good of Our Ancient Kingdom, hath been such, That We have left nothing undone, that might Contribute to the making of it Happy; And therefore having been informed, that Differences as to the Government of the Church have caused greatest Confusions in that Nation; We did willingly concurre with Our Parliament, in In-acting such a Frame of it, as was judged to be most agreeable to the Inclinations of Our Good Subjects: To which as We have had a particular Reguard, in Countenancing this Assembly, With Our Authority, and a Representative of Our Royall Person; So We expect, that Your Managment shall be such, as We shall have no reason, to Repent of what we have done. A Calm and Peaceable Procedure, will be no less pleasing to Us, than it becometh You. We never could be of the Mind, that Violence was suited to the advanceing of True Religion: Nor doe We intend, that Our Authority shall ever be a Tool, to the Irregular Passions of any Party. Moderation is what Religion enjoynes; Neighbouring Churches expect from You, and We Recommend to You. And We assure You of Our constant Favour and Protection, in Your following of these Methods, which shall be for the real advantage of True Piety, and the Peace of Our Kingdoms. Given under our Royal Hand, At our Court at *Kensingtoun*, the 10 day of *October* 1690.

By His Majesties Command,
MELVILL.

Direct,
For the Reverend, Trusty and Well-Beloved. Ministers and Elders, met in the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland: At Edinburgh.

The

III.

The Assemblies Answer to His Majesties Gracious Letter.

Edinburgh 18*th*. October 1690. *Post Meridiem* Sess. 4.

May it please Your Majesty,

YOur Gracious Letter, Direct to the Ministers and Elders met here, in the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*; was Read and Heard among Us, with all Joy and Thankfulness, that the Rising and Shining again of the Royal Favour, upon this long Afflicted and distressed Church, could possibly Inspire: For as Your Majesties Concern for the Good of this Your Ancient Kingdom, hath indeed been such, as nothing can impair the Happy State whereunto You have Restored it, save the want of the due sense and understanding of so great a Mercy; So We doe most heartily acknowledge, that through Your Majesties Care and Kindness, the Church of Christ therein, doth equally partake of the same Blessing. It was the sad Confusions, that differences as to the Government of the Church, had caused in this Nation, that according to Your Majesties first Declaration, for our Relief, moved our Gracious God, to Raise up and Prosper You, to be our Glorious Deliverer, for Effectuating the Re-establishment that we now enjoy: So that we are perswaded, that it is not more Agreeable, to the Inclinations and Conscientious Perswasions of all within this Kingdom, who are best Affected to Your Majesties Person and Government, than it is acceptable to God, and will be Your Majesties perpetual Peace and Satisfaction. Nor are we less Sensible of the particular Regard, Your Majestie professeth towards us, on this occasion, in Countenancing this Assembly, with Your Authority, and a Representative of Your Royall Person; for which we most humbly acknowledge Your Gracious Favour; especially that it hath pleased Your Majesty, to fix Your Choice, upon a Person so well Qualified, and so acceptable to Us. And now, *Great Sir*, after so many and so great Mercies and Favours, Received from God and Your Majesty; We Hope we may with Confidence assure You, that our Managment shall be such, as Your Majesty hath so just Reason to expect, and shall never give you cause to Repent of what You have done for Us. The God of Love, the Prince of Peace, with all the Providences that have gone over Us, and Circumstances that We are under, as well as Your Majesties most Obliging Pleasure, Require of Us a Calme and Peaceable Procedure. And it alters the Violence for Conscience sake, that We have Suffered, and so much Detested, and

theſe Grievious Abuſes of Authority, in the late Reigns, Whereby through ſome Mens Irregular Paſſions, We have ſo ſadly Smarted; We our ſelves ſhould Lapſe unto the ſame Errours, We ſhould certainly prove the moſt Unjuſt towards God, Fooliſh towards our Selves, and Ungrate towards Your Majeſty, of all Men on earth. Great Revolutions of this nature, muſt be attended, with Occaſions of Complaint: And even the worſt of Men, are Ready to cry out of Wrong, for their juſteſt Deſervings: But as Your Majeſty Knows theſe things too well, to give us the leaſt Apprehenſion of any Impreſſions, evil Report can make; So We aſſure Your Majeſty, as in the Preſence of God, and in expectation of his dreadfull Appearance, that We ſhall Study that Moderation, which Your Majeſty Recommends, as being convinced, that it is the Duty that Religion enjoyns, and Neighbouring Churches doe moſt juſtly expect from Us: Deſiring in all things, to Approve our ſelves unto God, as the true Diſciples of Jeſus Chriſt, who, though moſt Zealous, againſt all Corruptions in his Church, was moſt Gentle towards the Perſons of Men: And to maintain as much as in us lyes, Peace and Concord, with all the Reformed Churches: As likewiſe to comply in all obſequious Duty, with all that Your Majeſty enjoyns, for the Real Advantage of true Piety, and the Peace of all Your Kingdoms. Heartily wiſhing, that God, who hath Graciouſly brought back Your Majeſties Perſon, in Safty, from Your Late, no leſs Generous, than Dangerous Expedition, for his Cauſe and Truth, with joyfull Succeſs; May ſtill preſerve Your Majeſty, and Our moſt Gracious Queen; Granting You long Life, Health, and Proſperity, And may Eſtabliſh Your Throne, and Bleſs Your Government, to the Glory of His Great Name, the Good of all his Churches, and the Welfare of all Your People. Which ſhall ever be the earneſt Prayer of.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſties moſt Faithful,

moſt Obedient

and moſt Humble Subjects,

Signed in our Preſence, in our Name,

and at our Appointment, By

HU. KENNEDIE Moderator.

IV.

Appointment of a Diet, to be kept by the Assembly for Prayer.

Eadem Sessione.

THe General Assembly Appoints *Monday* next, betwixt Eight and Twelve a Clock in the Forenoon, to be set apart for Prayer, by the Members of this Assembly: And Recommends to all the Members, to meet in the Assembly-House for that end, at Eight a Clock in the Morning.

V.

The Proceedings of the Assembly, anent Mr. Thomas Lining *and Others.*

Edinburgh 25*th.* October 1690. *Ante Meridiem.* Sess. 9.

THe General Assembly, having received a Report from the Committee of Overtures, anent the Papers given in to the said Committee, and Subscribed by Mr. *Thomas Lining*, Mr. *Alexander Shiells*, and Mr. *William Boyd*, who had followed some Courses contrary to the Order of this Church; whereby, "The said Committe, out of their ardent Desire of Union in the "Church, Recommend to the Assembly, the Reading of the "Shorter of these two Papers; In which the fore-named Persons "Oblige themselves, after the exhibiting of the larger Paper "(which they offer, as they profess, for the Exoneration of their "Consciences) and laying it down at the Assemblies feet, to be "Disposed upon as the Assembly should think fit: That they "shall in all required Submission, Subject Themselves, their Lives "and Doctrine, to the Cognizance of the Respective Judicatories "of this Church, and equally to Oppose Schism and Division, "in any Capacity, that they should be capable of. But the said "Committee, Judgeth, the Reading of the larger of the said "two Papers, in full Assembly, to be Inconvenient: In regard, "That though there be several good Things in it, yet the same "doth also contain several Peremptory and gross Mistakes, Unreasonable and Impracticable Proposals, and Uncharitable and "Injurious Reflections, tending rather to kindle Consciences, "than to compose Divisions. Nevertheless, the said Committee, "gives it as their Opinion, That the foresaid Offer of the above-

" named Persons their Subjection and Obedience, to the Autho-
" rity of this Church, in her Respective Judicatories, contained
" in the said Shorter Paper; should be Entertained and Accepted
" of, by the Assembly, and they Received into Communion with
" this Church, according to their several Capacities.

Likeas the abovenamed persons, having Compeared, in presence of the Assembly, and Judicially Owned and Adhered unto their said Shorter Paper: And the Assembly having heard the above-written Report, of the Committee of Overtures concerning both the saids Papers; As also the said shorter Paper, Read in their Presence: The General Assembly, after mature Deliberation, did Unanimously, and without a contrary Vote, Approve the above-written Report and Opinion of the Committee of Overtures, in the hail Heads thereof. Which being Intimate to the fore-named Persons, they Acquiesced thereto. Upon all which the following Act was made.

ACT *anent Mr.* Thomas Lining *and Others.*

WHereas Mr. *Thomas Lining*, Mr. *Alexander Scbields*, and Mr. *William Boyd*, have presented to this Assembly two Papers: One containing the Expressions of their Purpose and Promise, of being subject to the Authority of this Church, as formerly Constituted, and now Restored, in its several Judicatories: The other Offered for the Exoneration of their Consciences. Which Paper, containing their Submission and Subjection, did after the exhibition of the other to the Assembly, Become Binding upon them, according to the Promise therein made. Likeas, after that other and longer Paper had been Read, before the Committee of Overtures, it was exhibite to and received by the Assembly; together with the Reasons from the said Committee, why it should not be Publickly read in full Assembly. Which Reasons being duely considered, and the said other Paper of Submission and Subjection publickly Read, and Judicially Owned by the forenamed Persons, in presence of the Assembly: The Assembly did conclude by one single Vote, that the foresaid longer Paper should not be Read. And that the abovenamed Persons should be Received into the Fellowship of this Church, on the Terms of Submission and Subjection contained in the Shorter Paper: And after passing of the said Vote, and that they were gravely Admonished by the Moderator to walk Orderly in time coming, in Opposition to all Schisme and Division; It was declared to them, by the Moderator, in the Name of the Assembly, That the Assembly did receive them into the Fellowship of this Church, to enjoy the Privileges thereof, and Perform the Duties therein

therein, whereof they are, or ſhall be found Capable. Whereupon, and at their deſire, it was ordained that this Act ſhould be made; and an Extract thereof given to them in good Form. *Follows the Tenour of the ſaid ſhorter Paper.*

To the Moderator *and Remanent* Members *of the General Aſſembly of the Church of* Scotland.

Right Reverend and Honourable,

"WIth the greateſt Earneſtneſs of longing we have
" deſired, and yet with a Patience perhaps to
" exceſs, we have waited, for an Opportuni-
" ty, to bring our unhappy Differences (of
" which, all Parties concerned are weary) to
" a Happy and Holy cloſe: And for this end to have acceſs to
" apply our ſelves to a full and free General Aſſembly of this
" Church, inveſted with Authority and Power, *in foro Divino*
" *& Humano*, to Determine and Cognoſce upon them. The
" want of which, an Aſſembly conſtitute in that vigour, to which,
" through the Mercy of God, This Venerable National Synod
" hath arrived, hath been the greateſt let and impediment of our
" compoſing theſe Differences, in a way, wherein not only we,
" but all of the ſame Sentiments would acquieſce. Now having
" obtained this much longed, and long Prayed for priviledge;
" We cannot forbear any longer, humbly, to Accoſt and Addreſs
" this Venerable Aſſembly, with a free and Ingenuous Repreſen-
" tation of our Minds and Deſires. The ſcope of which is, to
" Repreſent theſe things, which have been moſt ſtumbling to us,
" for the exoneration of our Conſciences; and to declare our
" Deſign, after we have exhibited our Teſtimony againſt theſe
" Courſes, which we underſtand to have been Corruptions and
" Defections in this Church, And laid it down at the Aſſemblies
" feet, to be diſpoſed of, as their Wiſdoms ſhall think fit: That
" we ſhall in all Required Submiſſion, Subject our Selves, our Lives
" and Doctrine, to the Cognizance of the Judicatories of this
" Church, and ſhall equally oppoſe Schiſm and Defection, in any
" Capacity, that we ſhall be found Capable of. And here by
" theſe preſents, we bind and oblige our ſelves Faithfully, to live
" in Union, Communion and intire Subjection, and due Obedi-
" ence in the Lord, to the Authority of this Church, in her Re-
" ſpective Judicatories: As witneſs our Hands at *Edinburgh* the
" 22 day of *October* 1690.

Thomas Laning.
Alexander Sheilds.
William Boyd.

VI.

Act anent Miniſters that obſerve not the publick Orders of the Church.

Edinburgh 28 of October 1690. *Ante Meridiem*, Seſſ. 11.

THe Aſſembly Recommends it to Presbyteries, to take Notice of all Miniſters, within their Bounds, whether the late Conforming Incumbents, or others, who ſhall not obſerve Faſts and Thankſgivings, Indicted by the Church: Or who ſhall be found Guilty, of any other Irregular Carriage, in Adminiſtrating the Sacraments in private, or Celebrating Clandeſtine Marriages, without due Proclamation of Bans: And to cenſure them accordingly.

VII.

Act approving ſeveral Overtures.

Edinburgh 29 October 1690. *Ante Meridiem*, Seſſ. 12.

THis day the Overtures following were Read in Preſence of the Aſſembly.

Anent Subſcribing the Confeſſion of Faith.

1. "For retaining ſoundneſs, and unity of Doctrin, "It is judged neceſſary, that all Probationers Li- "cenſed to Preach, all Intrants into the Miniſtry, "and all other Miniſters and Elders Received into Communion "with us, in Church Government, be obliged, to Subſcribe "their Approbation of the Confeſſion of Faith, approven by for- "mer General Aſſemblies of this Church, and Ratified in the ſe- "cond Seſſion of the Current Parliament: And that this be Re- "commended to the Diligence of the ſeveral Presbyteries, and "they appointed to Record their Diligence thereanent in their "reſpective Regiſters.

Anent Papiſts.

2. "That it be Recommended to Presbyteries, to take ſpecial "Notice, what Papiſts are in their Bounds, and that they take "pains to Re-claim them, and to Advert how their Children are "Educate: And if need be, to make Application to the Civil "Authority concerning them.

Anent Celebration of Marriage

3. "That the Celebration of Marriage, without due Procla- "of Bans, according to Order, three ſeveral Sabbaths in the re-

ſpective

" ſpective Pariſhes, be diſcharged: And that it be recommended " to Presbyteries, to Cenſure the Contraveeners.

4. " That it be recommended to Kirk-Seſſions and Presbyte- *Againſt profa-* " ries, carefully to put in Execution, the Acts of former General *nation of the* " Aſſemblies againſt Profanation of the Lords-day, and parti- *Sabbath.* " cularly by unneceſſary Sailing and Travelling.

5. " That Application be made to the Parliament: for alter- *Anent Mercats* " ing all Mercats in Royal Burghs and other places, on *Saturdays* *on Saturdays and* " and *Mondays*. *Mondays*

The General Aſſembly after mature Deliberation, approves of theſe Overtures, and Recommends and Appoints accordingly: And ordains the ſame to be obſerved, and to have the Force and Strength of an Act and Ordinance of Aſſembly.

VIII.

Act approving the Aſſociations of Presbyteries.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly, allows and approves of the Miniſters of different Presbyteries, their Aſſociating in Presbyteries; ay and while the Vacancies of the ſaids Presbyteries be filled: And declares them to have the Authority and Power of Presbytries Reſpectively: And that notwithſtanding, that according to the old Platform, the ſaids Miniſters do reſide in the Bounds of different Presbyteries.

IX.

Act againſt Miniſters Removing out of this Church.

Edinburgh 31 October 1690. *Ante Meridiem* Seſſ. 15.

THE General Aſſembly does hereby appoint, that no Miniſters, who have actual ſtanding and abſolute Relations, to any Charge in the Church of *Scotland*, ſhall remove out of the Kingdom, without the Conſent of the Reſpective Judicatories of this Church.

X.

Act anent the Adminiſtration of the Sacraments.

Eadem Seſſione.

THe General Aſſembly conſidering, that the two Sacraments, that Chriſt hath appointed under the New Teſtament, *viz*, *Baptiſm and the Lords Supper*, are his Solemn Ordinances, and Seals of the Covenant of Grace (which is held forth in the Preaching of the Goſpel) And that in the uſe of them, the Parties receiving them, are ſolemnly devoted and engaged to God, before Angels and men; and are ſolemnly received, as Members of the Church and do entertain Communion with her: And that by the Authority of this Church, in her former Aſſemblies, The private uſe of them hath been condemned: As alſo, that by allowing the private uſe of the ſame, in pretended Caſes of Neceſſity; The Superſtitious opinion is nouriſhed, that they are neceſſary to Salvation, not only as commanded Duties, but as means, without which Salvation cannot be attained. Therefore, The Aſſembly hereby diſcharges, the Adminiſtration of the Lords Supper, to Sick Perſons in their Houſes, and all other uſe of the ſame, except in the publick Aſſemblies of the Church. And alſo do diſcharge the Adminiſtration of Baptiſm in private, That is, in any place, or at any time, when the Congregation is not orderly called together, to wait on the Diſpenſing of the Word. And appoints that this be carefully obſerved, when and where ever, the Lord giveth his people Peace, Liberty and Opportunity for their publick Aſſemblies. And ordains this preſent Act to be publickly Intimate in all the Churches.

XI.

ACT approving Overtures anent the Iriſh *Bibles*, &c.

Edinburgh 11 November 1690. *Poſt Meridiem* Seſſ. 24.

THis day the Overtures following anent the *Iriſh Bibles*, *New Teſtaments* and *Catechiſms*, were read in preſence of the Aſſembly.

" 1. That a Letter of Thanks be written to theſe " concerned, whether in this, or our Neighbour " Nation, for their Care of, and Liberal Charity towards the " *Highlanders* of this Kingdom, in their ſo Liberally Contributing, for the ſaids *Iriſh Bibles*, &c. And that Mr. *David Blair* " be appointed to write the ſaid Letter in the Name of this Aſſembly.

" 2. The whole Money ſo Charitably contributed, being expended, Therefore, and for making up of the ſame, and for " Defraying of the neceſſary Charges of Tranſporting the ſaids " Bibles, &c. to *Scotland*; It is thought moſt needful, that there " be an advance of One thouſand Pounds *Scots*, and that Their " Majeſties Privy Council be Supplicat, for as much of ſome " Vacant Stipends, of Pariſhes, where the King is Patron, as will " make up the ſaid ſum for the ends foreſaid.

" 3. That it be Recommended to the Kirk Seſſions, Heretors " and others concerned in the *Highlands*, to ſee the Act of Parliament anent Erecting of Schools in every Pariſh, duely Execute, and the *Fonds* eſtabliſhed by Law, for the ſame, made " Effectual.

" 4. That it be Recommended to the Agent for the Kirk, to Receive the foreſaid ſum, and to Deburſe the ſame at the ſight of " Mr. *John Law* and Mr. *David Blair*, for the ſaid uſe. And " alſo to receive the Books above-mentioned, being three Thouſand *Bibles*, one Thouſand *New Teſtaments*, and three Thouſand *Catechiſms*, from *London*.

" 5. That the ſeveral Synods, who have *Highland Pariſhes* in " their Bounds, appoint one of their Number, to receive their " proportion, of the ſaids *Bibles*, *New Teſtaments*, and *Catechiſms*: And that in order thereto, the Miniſters and Elders " having Intereſt in the *Highlands*, preſent in this Aſſembly, " ſhall meet and appoint ſome to receive theſe *Bibles*, &c. And " proportion the number that each Pariſh ſhall have thereof.

" 6. That it be Recomended to the Miniſters, concerned in the " *Highlands*, to diſpatch the whole Paraphraſe of the *Iriſh* " *Pſalms*, to the Preſs. And if the Principal Copy can be Recovered, to expede the ſame; But that any other Copy they

" have, be Reviſed by the Synod of *Argyle*, and being approven " by them; That the ſame be Printed.

The Aſſembly having conſidered theſe Overtures, they Approve thereof, and Recommend and Appoint accordingly.

XII.

ACT *anent a Solemn National Faſt and Humiliation, with the Cauſes thereof.*

At Edinburgh, November 12. 1690. *Poſt Meridiem*, Seſſ. 25.

THE General Aſſembly, Having taken into their moſt ſerious Conſideration, the late great and general Defection of this Church and Kingdom; Have thought fit to Appoint a Day of Solemn Humiliation and Faſting, for Confeſſion of Sins, and making Supplication to Our Gracious GOD, to Forgive and Remove the guilt thereof: In order whereunto, they have Ordained the Confeſſion of Sins, and Cauſes of Faſting following, to be duely Intimate and Publiſhed; Recommending it moſt earneſtly to all perſons, both Miniſters and Others, That every One of us may not only ſearch and try our own Hearts and Wayes, and ſtir up Our ſelves to ſeek the Lord; But alſo in our Stations, and as we have acceſs, Deal with one another, in all Love and Tenderneſs, to prepare for ſo great and neceſſary a Duty, that we may find mercy in God's ſight, and He may be graciouſly Reconciled to our Land in the Lord Jeſus, and take delight to dwell among us.

Although our gracious God hath of late, for His own Name ſake wrought great and wonderfull things, for *Britain* and *Ireland*, and for this Church and Nation in particular; Yet the Inhabitants thereof have cauſe to remember their own evil wayes, and to loath themſelves in their own ſight for their Iniquities.

Alas! We and our Fathers, our Princes, our Paſtors, and People of all Ranks have ſinned, and have been under great Tranſgreſſion to this day: For through our gracious God ſhewed early kindneſs to this Land, in ſending the Goſpel among us, and afterward in our Reformation from Popiſh Superſtition and Idolatry; and IT had the Honour, beyond many Nations of being after our firſt Reformation, Solemnly devoted unto God, both Prince and People; yet we have dealt treacherouſly with the Lord, and been unſtedfaſt in His Covenant, and have not walked ſuitably to our Mercies received from Him, nor obligations to Him. Through the mercy of God this Church had attained to a great purity of Doctrine, Worſhip and Government, but this

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was not accompanied with ſuitable perſonal Reformation, neither was our Fruit anſwerable to the pains taken on us by Word and Work; We had much Goſpel-preaching, but too little Goſpel-practice; too many went on in open wickedneſs, and ſome had but a form of Godlineſs, denying the power thereof: Many alſo who had the Grace of God in truth fell from their firſt love, and fell under ſad languiſhings and decays; and when for our ſins the Anger of the Lord had divided us, and we were brought under the feet of ſtrangers, and many of our brethren killed, and others taken captive and ſold as ſlaves; yet we ſinned ſtill, and after we were freed from the yoak of ſtrangers, in ſtead of returning to the Lord, and being led to Repentance by His Goodneſs, the Land made open Defection from the good ways of the Lord: Many behaved as if they had been delivered to work abomination, the flood-gates of Impiety were opened, and a deluge of wickedneſs did overſpread the Land. Who can without grief and ſhame remember the ſhameful debauchery and drunkenneſs that then was? And this accompanied with horrid and helliſh curſing and ſwearing, and followed with frequent Filthineſs, Adulteries and other Abominations, and the Reprover was hated, and he that departed from Iniquity made himſelf a Reproach or Prey. And when by theſe, and ſuch like corrupt practices, mens Conſciences were debauched, they proceeded to ſacrifice the Intereſt of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and privileges of his Church to the luſts and will of Men; The Supremacy was advanced in ſuch a way, and to ſuch an height, as never any Chriſtian Church acknowledged; The Government of the Church was altered, and Prelacie (which hath been always grievous to this Nation) introduced, without the Churches conſent, and contrary to the ſtanding Acts of our National Aſſemblies, both which the preſent Parliament hath (bleſſed be God) lately found; And yet nevertheleſs, of the then ſtanding Miniſtry of *Scotland*, many did ſuddenly and readily comply with that alteration of the Government, ſome out of Pride and Covetouſneſs, or Man-pleaſing, ſome through infirmity or weakneſs, or fear of Man, and want of Courage and Zeal for God; many faithful Miniſters were thereupon caſt out, and many Inſufficient and Scandalous Men thruſt in on their Charges, and many Families ruined, becauſe they would not own them as their Paſtors.

And alas! It is undenyable, there hath been under the late Prelacie, a great decay of Piety, ſo that it was enough to make a man be nicknam'd a Phanatick, if he did not run to the ſame exceſs of Riot with others.

And ſhould it not be lamented, for it cannot be denied, that there hath been in ſome a dreadful Atheiſtical Boldneſs againſt God, ſome have diſputed the Being of GOD, and His Providence, the Divine Authority of the Scriptures, the Life to

come, and Immortality of the Soul, yea and ſcoffed at theſe things.

There hath been alſo an Horrid Prophanation of the Holy and Dreadful Name of GOD, by curſing and ſwearing: Ah! there hath been ſo much Swearing and Forſwearing amongſt us, that no Nation under Heaven hath been more guilty in this than we; ſome by ſwearing raſhly or ignorantly, ſome falſly, by breaking their Oaths, and impoſing and taking ungodly unlawful Oaths and Bonds, whereby the Conſciences of many have been polluted and feared, and many ruined and oppreſſed for refuſing and not taking them.

There hath alſo been a great neglect of the Worſhip of God, too much in publick, but eſpecially in Families and in ſecret.

The wonted care of Religious ſanctifying the Lord's Day is gone, and in many places the Sabbath hath been, and is ſhamefully prophaned.

The Land alſo hath been, full of bloody Crimes, and Cities full of Violence, and much innocent Blood ſhed, ſo that Blood touched Blood, yea, *Sodoms* ſins have abounded amongſt us, Pride, fulneſs of Bread, Idleneſs, Vanities of Apparel, and ſhamefull ſenſuality filled the Land.

And alas! how great hath been the Cry of Oppreſſion and Unrighteouſneſs, Iniquity hath been eſtabliſhed by a Law, there hath been a great perverting of Juſtice, by making and excuting unrighteous Statutes and Acts, and ſad perſecutions of many for their Conſcience towards God.

It is alſo matter of Lamentation, that under this great Defection there hath been too general a fainting, not only amongſt Profeſſors of the Goſpel, but alſo amongſt Miniſters; yea, even amongſt ſuch, who in the main things did endeavour to maintain their Integrity, in not giving ſeaſonable and neceſſary Teſtimony againſt the Defections and Evils of the Time, and keeping a due diſtance from them, and ſome on the other hand managed their Zeal with too little Diſcretion and Meekneſs.

It is alſo matter of Humiliation, that when Differences fell out amongſt theſe, who did owne Truth, and bear witneſs againſt the Courſe of Defection, they were not managed with due Charity and Love, but with too much heat and bitterneſs, injurious Reflections uſed againſt Pious and Worthy men on all hands, and ſcandalous Diviſions occaſioned, and the Succeſs of the Goſpel greatly obſtructed thereby, and ſome dangerous Principles drunk in: And after all this, there were ſhamful advances towards Popery, the Abomination of the Maſs was ſet up in many places, and Popiſh Schools erected, and ſeverals fell to Idolatry.

And though the Lord hath put a ſtop to the Courſe of Defection, and of his great mercy given us ſome reviving from our Bondage; yet we have ſad cauſe to regrate and bemoan, that few have

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a due ſenſe of our mercy, or walk anſwerable thereto; Few are turned to the Lord in truth, but the wicked go on to do wickedly; And there is found amongſt us to this day, ſhameful ingratitude for our mercies, Horrid impenitency under our ſins, yea, even among thoſe, who ſtand moſt up for the Defence of the Truth: And amongſt many in our Armies, there is woful Prophanneſs and Debauchery. And though we profeſs to acknowledge, there can be no pardon of Sins, no Peace and Reconciliation with God, but by the Blood of Jeſus Chriſt; Yet few know Him, or ſee the Neceſſity and Excellency of the Knowledge of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; few ſee their need of Him, or eſteem, deſire, or receive Him, as He is offered in the Goſpel; Few are acquainted with Faith in Jeſus Chriſt, and living by Faith on Him, as made of the Father unto us, Wiſdom, Righteouſneſs, Sanctification and Redemption; And few walk as becometh the Goſpel, and imitat our Holy Lord in Humility, Meekneſs, Self-denial, Heavenly mindedneſs, Zeal for GOD, and Charity towards Men: But as there is even untill now, a great contempt of the Goſpel, a great Barrenneſs under it; So a deep Security under our Sin and Danger, a great want of Piety toward God, and Love towards Men, with a woſull Selfiſhneſs, every one ſeeking their own things, few the things of Chriſt, or the publick Good, or one anothers welfare: And finally, the moſt part more ready to Cenſure the ſins of others, than to Repent of their own.

Our Iniquities are increaſed over our heads, and our Treſpaſſes are grown up Unto the Heavens, they are many in number, and hainous in their nature, and grievouſly aggravated, as having been contrary to great Light and Love, under ſignal Mercies and Judgments after Confeſſion and Supplication, and notwithſtanding of our Profeſſion, Promiſes and ſolemn Vowing, and Covenanting with God to the contrary.

Have we not then ſad cauſe of deep Sorrow and Humiliation? And may we not fear, if we do not repent, and turn from the evil of our wayes, and return to the Lord with all our hearts, that He return to do us evil, after He hath done us good, and be angry with us, untill He hath conſumed us?

Let us therefore humble our ſelves by Faſting and Praying, let us ſearch out our ſins, and conſider our wayes, and confeſs theſe, and other our ſins, with Sorrow and Deteſtation; Let us Turn unto the Lord with Faſting and weeping, and with mourning; Let us firmly Reſolve and ſincerely Engage to Amend our wayes and doings, and Return unto the Lord our God, with all our heart, and earneſtly pray, that for the blood of the Lamb of God, our ſins may be forgiven, and our back-ſlidings healed, and we may yet become a righteous Nation, keeping the Truth, that Religion and Righteouſneſs may flouriſh, and Love, and Charity abound, and all the Lords People may be of one mind in the Lord:

And in order to all these, that the Word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, and that the Preaching of the Word, and Dispensing of the Sacraments, may be accompanied with the wonted Presence, Power and Blessing of the Spirit of the Lord; That the Lord would preserve and bless our gracious *King* and *Queen*, *William* and *Mary*, and establish their Throne by Righteousness and Religion, and grant to these Nations, Peace and Truth together; And for that End, bless and prosper His Majesties Councils, and Forces by Sea and Land, and these of the Princes and States his Allies, for God and his Truth; That Inferior Rulers may Rule in the fear of God, and Judges be clothed with Righteousness, and that many faithful Labourers may be sent out into the Lord's Vineyard, and they who are sent, may find mercy to be faithful, and be blest with Success; That Families may be as little Churches of Christ, and that the Lord would pour out His Spirit on all Ranks of People, that they may be Holy in all manner of Conversation, and God may delight to dwell amongst us and to do us good,

And while we pray for our selves, let us not forget our Brethren in Foreign Churches, with whom, alas! we had too little Sympathy; Nay, let us pray, that all the Ends of the Earth, may see the Salvation of God; And that He would bring His ancient people of the *Jews* to the Acknowledgment of Jesus Christ; And that he would hasten the Ruine of Romish Babylon, and advance the Reformation in Christendome, and preserve and bless the Reformed Churches; That he would pitie His oppressed People, the *French Protestants*, and gather them out of all places, whither they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day; And that He would be the Defence, Strength and Salvation of any of His People, who are in War or Danger by Infidel or Popish adversaries, in *Europe* or *America*: And in particular, that the Lord would be Gracious to *Ireland*, and sanctifie to His People there, both their distress and Deliverance, and perfect what concerneth them, that he would Convert the Natives there to the Truth, Reduce that Land to Peace; And appoint Salvation for Wall and Bullwarks to *Brittain*.

For all these Causes and Reasons, The General Assembly hath Appointed the Second Thursday of *January* next, to be Observed in all the Congregations of this Church and Nation, as a day of Solemn Fasting and Humiliation, and Prayer; Beseeching and Obtesting all, both Pastors and People, of all Ranks to be sincere and serious, in Humiliation and Supplication, and universal Reformation, as they would wish to find mercy of the Lord and have deserved wrath averted, and would obtain the Blessing of the Lord upon themselves and Posterity after them; And that the Lord may delight in us, and our Land may be as Married to Him And Ordains all Ministers, either in Kirks or Meeting houses, to Read

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this preſent Act publickly from the Pulpit, a Sabbath or two before the ſaid Day of Humiliation: and that the ſeveral Presbyteries take care, that it be carefully Obſerved in their Reſpective bounds. And where, in regard of Vacancies, the Day hereby appointed, cannot be obſerved; The Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Humiliation to be kept ſome other Day with the firſt convenient opportunity. And Appoints the Commiſſion of Viſitation, to apply to the Council, for their Civil Sanction to the Obſervation thereof.

XIII.

Act anent Sentences paſt againſt Miniſters from the Year 1650. &c.

Eadem Seſſione.

THe General Aſſembly does hereby declare, all Sentences, paſt againſt any Miniſters *Hinc Inde*, by any Church Judicatory, upon the Account of the late Differences among Presbyterians, from the Year 1650. Till the Re-introduction of Prelacy; to be of themſelves void and null, to all Effects and Intents. And Siclike the General Aſſembly hereby Recommends, to the reſpective Presbyteries, to take care, that ſuch of theſe Miniſters, as are not otherwayes diſpoſed of by the Church, Return to the exerciſe of their Miniſtry, in their Reſpective Congregations. And alſo hereby Recommends to the Civil Magiſtrate, that the ſaids Miniſters may have the Legal Maintenances and Stipends where they ſerved.

XIV.

The Assemblies Letter to His Majesty.

Edinburgh 13 of November 1690. *Post Meridiem*, Sess. 26.

May it please Your Majesty,

THe Happiness we have had by Your Majesties influence, as an Instrument in the Hand of God, towards us for good, and the Countenance You have given us in Holding this National Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, Doth Encourage us to make Application again to Your Majesty; That as in our Answer to Your Gracious Letter direct to us in the Entrance of this Assembly, we Engaged to Your Majesty that in all things that should come before us, we would carry with that Calmnes and Moderation, which becometh the Ministers of the Gospel of Peace, and which Your Majesty did so effectually Recomend to us; So now in the Close of this our Assembly, we presume to acquaint Your Majesty, That through the good Hand of God upon us, we have in a great measure performed accordingly: Having applied our selves, mostly and especially, to what concerned this whole Church, and endeavoured by all means Ecclesiastical and proper for us, to promote the Good thereof, together with the Quiet of the Kingdom, and Your Majesties Satisfaction and Contentment. And God hath been pleased to Bless our Endeavours, in our Receiving to the Unity and Order of this Church, some who had withdrawn, and now have joyned with us, and promised Subjection: And in providing for the Propagation of Religion, and the Knowledge of God, in the most Barbarous places of the *Highlands*, which may be the surest way of Reducing these people also unto Your Majesties Obedience: And especially in Regulating the Ministers of this Church, after so great Revolutions and Alterations: For we have according to the use and practice of this Church, ever since the first Reformation from Popery, appointed Visitations both for the Southern and Northern parts of this Kingdom, Consisting of the Gravest and most Experienced Ministers and Elders: To whom we have given Instructions about the late Conformists, that none of them shall be Removed from their Places, but such as are either Insufficient, or Scandalous, or Erroneous, or Supinely Negligent: And that these of them be admitted to Ministerial Communion with us, who upon due Trial, and in a Competent Time for that Trial, shall be found to be Orthodox in Doctrine, of Competent Abilities, of a Godly, Peaceable, and Loyal Conversation

verſation, and who ſhall be judged Faithfull to God and to the Government: And who ſhall likewayes Promiſe to Own, Submit unto and Concurre with it. We have alſo taken Care, that all perſons, who ſhall be found to have received wrong, in any Inferior Judicatory of this Church, ſhall be duly Redreſſed: Other things which are not of ſo Univerſal a Concern, we have delayed till the next General Aſſembly. This Account Great SIR, we look upon our ſelves as Obliged to give unto Your Majeſty, for that great Goodneſs, You have been pleaſed to expreſs, in giving ſuch Countenance to this Aſſembly, and in appointing ſuch a Comiſſioner to Repreſent Your Royal Perſon, who hath been in all his Conduct in this Affair, moſt acceptable unto us. That God may Bleſs Your Majeſty and our moſt Gracious Queen, with all Bleſſings, which concern both this Life and the Life to come, is the earneſt Prayer of.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſties moſt Faithful,

Moſt Humble and moſt Obedient

Subjects and Servants.

Subſcribed in Name, and at the Appointment of the General Aſſembly, by,

HU. KENNEDIE. Moderator.

XV.

Inſtructions to the Commiſſions for Viſitations on the South and North ſides of Tay.

Eadem Seſſione.

THe following Inſtructions to the Commiſſion for Viſitations on this ſide of *Tay*, were Read in preſence of the Aſſembly.

" 1. That there be appointed by the Aſſembly, " a Delegate number of the moſt Expetienced Mi- " niſters and Elders. This number to be Fourty Miniſters, and " Twenty Ruling Elders, fifteen of them to a *Quorum*, ten of

" theſe being alwayes Miniſters: And that they at their firſt Seſ-
" ſion, Chooſe their Moderator and Clerk: And for the Sub-com-
" mittee betwixt the Quarterly Meetings, nine to be the *Quorum*,
" ſix of theſe being always Miniſters.

" 2. That the work of this Commiſſion for Viſitations be, to
" take to their Cognizance all References, and Appeals, and
" other things, which being ſtated before this Aſſembly, ſhall
" by them be ſpecially Referred to the ſaid Commiſſion, to deter-
" mine the ſame.

" 3. That the Commiſſion give their Opinion to all Presbyte-
" ries and Synods, who ſhall apply to them for the ſame, in dif-
" ficult Caſes; And though Presbyteries ſhall not apply, yet if the
" Commiſſion ſhall be informed of any Precipitant, or unwar-
" rantable procedure of Presbyteries, in Proceſſes, which may
" prove of ill Conſequence to the Church, The Commiſſion ſhall
" interpoſe their Advice, to ſuch Presbyteries, to ſiſt ſuch pro-
" cedure, till either the Synod, or next General Aſſembly take
" Cognizance of it; if the ſaid Commiſſion ſhall not find a preſent
" fit Expedient, to direct them, for bringing the matter ſooner
" to a Right Concluſion.

" 4. That in diſcuſſing References, Appeals and Bills, They take
" care to purge out all, who upon due Tryal, ſhall be found to be
" Inſufficient, ſupinely Negligent, Scandalous or Erroneous.

" 5. That this Commiſſion ſhall have Power of Viſiting any
" Miniſters within the Bounds of any Presbyteries, on this ſide of
" the Water of *Tay*, as they ſhall find need: And that this
" Power Reach Presbyterians as well as others.

" 6. That they ſhall be Careful, that none ſhall be admitted by
" them to Miniſterial Communion, or to a ſhare of the Govern-
" ment; but ſuch as upon due Tryal (for which the Commiſſion
" is to take a competent time) ſhall be found to be Orthodox in
" their Doctrine, of Competent Abilities, having a Pious, God-
" ly, Loyal and Peaceable Converſation, as becometh a Mini-
" ſter of the Goſpel, of an Edifying Gift, and whom the Com-
" miſſion ſhall have ground to believe, will be True and Faithful
" to God and the Government, and diligent in their Miniſterial
" Duties. And that all who ſhall be admitted to the Miniſtry, or
" ſhall be received to a ſhare in the Government, ſhall be obliged
" to Own and Subſcribe the *Confeſſion of Faith*, and profeſs their
" Submiſſion to, and willingneſs to Joyn and Concur with the
" Presbyterian Church Government.

" 7. That they be very Cautious of receiving Informations,
" againſt the late Conformiſts, and that they proceed in the mat-
" ter of Cenſure, very Deliberatly, ſo as none may have juſt cauſe
" to complain of their Rigidities. Yet ſo as to omitt no means
" of Information. And that they ſhall not proceed to cenſure, but
" upon Relevant Libells and ſufficient Probation.

" 8. That

" 8. That this Commiſſion doe not take on them, to meddle " with any thing, not expreſſed in their Commiſſion: And that it " be declared, that this commiſſion is only given, *ad hunc effe-* " *ctum & pro præſenti Eccleſiæ ſtatu.*

" 9. That this commiſſion be in all their actings, Countable " to, and Cenſurable by the next Enſuing Generall Aſſembly.

" 10. That this comiſſion continue till the firſt of *November* " next, and in caſe the Generall Aſſembly Interveen; Then this " Commiſſion is to Terminate at the meetting of the ſaid Aſſemb- " ly.

The General Aſſembly approves theſe Inſtructions, for the ſaid Commiſſion for Viſitations on the South-ſide of *Tay:* And ordains the ſame alſo to ſerve for the Viſitors that are to be appointed for the North.

XVI.

Commiſſion for Viſitations on the South ſide of Tay.

Eadem Seſſione.

THe Generall Aſſembly Conſidering, that there are many Important and weighty Affairs, Proceſſes, Appealls and References, Tabled before this Aſſembly, which the Aſſembly could not overtake, for want of time to conſider them maturely; Does therefore Nominate and Authorize a Commiſſion of Miniſters and Elders, for Viſitation of the whole Presbyteries, on the South-ſide of *Tay, viz.* Mr. *Hugh Kennedy*, Mr. *John Veatch*, Mr. *John Law*, Mr. *Gabriel Semple*, Mr. *Gilbert Rule*, Mr. *James Kirtoun*, Mr. *William Areskyne*, Mr. *William Weir*, Mr. *William Crichtoun*, Mr. *John Anderſon* of *Perth*, Mr. *Alexander Pitcairn*, Mr. *Richard Howiſon*, Mr. *George Campbel*, Mr *John Lawrie*, Mr. *Archibald Hamiltoun*, Mr. *Patrick Peacock*, Mr. *John Spalding*, Mr. *Michael Bruce*, Mr. *Gabriel Cuningham*, Mr. *Patrick Warner*, Mr. *Alexander Forbes*, Mr. *John Hutcheſon*, Mr. *William Eccles*, Mr. *James Veatch*, Mr. *Patrick Sympſon*, Mr. *Matthew Crawford*, Mr. *William Legat*, Mr. *Neil Gillies*, Mr. *Thomas Forreſter*, Mr. *Andrew Mortoun*, Mr. *Robert Duncanſon*, Mr. *John Bannatyne*, Mr. *William Ker*, Mr. *William Vilant*, Mr. *Robert Rule*, Mr. *James Fraſer*, Mr *George Meldrum* at *Kilwining*, Mr. *David Blair*, Mr *Samuel Nairn*, Mr *Edward Jamiſon*, Mr. *James Rymer* Miniſters: And the Earl of *Crawford*, the Earl of *Sutherland*, the Viſcount of *Arbuthnet*,

buthnet, the Lord *Halcraig*, the Lord *Aberuthil*, the Laird of *Ormiſtoun*, Sir *John Hall* Provoſt of *Edinburgh*, Sir *John Riddel*, the Laird of *Greenknows*, *Archibald Muir* late Baylie of *Edinburgh*, *James M'lurg* Dean of Gild, *George Stirling* Deacon Conveener, the Laird of *Naughtoun*, the Laird of *Meggans*, the Laird of *Leuquhat*, Sir *Thomas Stewart*, the Laird of *Glanderſtoun*, the Laird of *Lamingtoun*, Provoſt *Muir* of *Air*, and the Laird of *Grange Hamiltoun* Ruling Elders: To meet for their firſt Diet at *Edinburgh* the fourteenth day of *November* Inſtant, Fifteen of them being a *Quorum*, whereof Ten are to be alwayes Miniſters: And of their Sub-Committee in the Interval of their Quarterly Meetings, Nine to be a *Quorum*, Six of theſe being always Miniſters, who only are to Ripen and prepare Matters for the Quarterly Meetings. And their next Quarterly Meeting to be at *Edinburgh* the Third *Wedneſday* of *January* thereafter. And their next Quarterly Meeting to be on the Third *Wedneſday* of *April*. And if afterwards the ſaid Commiſſion ſhall think fit, to appoint other Quarterly Meetings, they may do as they ſee Expedient. With full Power to them and their Sub-Comiſſion foreſaid, to give Warrand for Citing Parties upon Fifteen free dayes. And the ſaid Commiſſion being only appointed, *Ad hunc effectum & pro præſenti Eccleſiæ Statu*, Therefore, The Aſſembly Recommends particularly to the ſaid Commiſſion, to take Cognizance of, and finally determine in the particulars following, ſpecially Committed and Referred to them, by this Aſſembly, *viz.* The Purging and Planting of the City and Presbytery of *Edinburgh*: The Tranſportation of Mr. *Robert Wylly* to *Hamiltoun*: The Proceſs of the Heretors and People of *Peebles*: The Proceſſes of Mr. *Thomas Wood* at *Dumbar*, of Mr. *Robert Spotſwood* at *Abbotſrule*, Mr. *John Bowes* at *Abbotſhall*, Mr. *Patrick Lyon* at *Kinghorn*, Mr. *Symon Cowpar* at *Dumfermling*, Mr. *William Crawford* at *Lady-Kirk*, Mr. *James Orr* at *Huttoun*, Mr. *Adam Peacock* at *Morbattle*, Mr. *Daniel Urquhart* at *Clackmannan*, Mr. *George Monro* at *Dollar*, Mr. *George Shaw* at *Loggie*, Mr. *Alexander Ireland* at *Foſſyway* and *Tillyboal*, Mr. *Robert Sharp* at *Muckart*, Mr *James Grahame* at *Dumfermling*, Mr. *George Gray* at *Beath*, Mr. *John Monro* at *Stirling*, and Mr. *John Skinner* at *Bathkenner*: The Petition of the Magiſtrates of *Perth*, and Reference anent Mr. *John Anderſon* there: The Proceſſes of Mr *William Aliſon* at *Kilbocho*, and Mr. *James Coupar* at *Humbie*: Some References of the Synod of *Merſe* and *Teviotdail* to the Aſſembly, *viz.* One anent Doctor *Canaries*, and another anent Mr. *Kirktoun* and Mr. *Jamiſon*'s returning to their Charges, or elſe to Dimit; And a third anent Mr. *William Crawford* Depoſed, to procure him ſome Livelyhood, becauſe of his Age and Infirmity, and ſome others given in to the Clerk therewith from the ſaid Synod; The Affair anent Mr. *Duncan Campbel* and the Pariſhes of *Dinnoon* and *Kilmann*

munn: The proceſs of Mr. *Robert Glaſford* at *Auchterderen*: The Reference from the Presbyterie of *Stirling*, for advice anent Mr. *Patrick Couper*: The Petitions of Mr. *William Hamiltoun* and *Mr. Hugh Nisbet*: The Petition of Mr. *Alexander Strang*, anent his Clerks Fies. This Commiſſion is alſo to Correſpond with the State, anent Faſts and Thankſgivings, and their Cauſes, if the Occaſions thereof fall out during the time of their ſitting: Alſo to take the Monitory paper to conſideration, and ſee what uſe is to be made of it: To conſider what Acts of Aſſembly are fit to be Printed together, and order the ſame. To conſider the form of proceſs, being firſt reviſed by the Lord *Aberuthie* and the Lord *Halcraige*. And to apply to the Privy Counſel for their Civil Sanction to the obſervation of the Faſt. And this Commiſſion is to walk in all things, according to the particular Inſtructions given unto them by this Aſſembly, And in all their Actings they ſhall be countable to and Cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly. And this ſion to Continue till the firſt of November next, or the diet, that ſhall be appointed for the next General Aſſembly.

XVII.

Commiſſion for Viſitations on the North ſide of Tay.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly taking to their Conſideration the neceſſity of Purging and Planting of the Churches on the Northſide of *Tay*, Do by their Eccleſiaſtical Authority, Nominat, Appoint and Authorize their Reverend Brethren Mr. *Hugh Kennedy*, Mr. *John Law*, Mr. *William Crichtoun*, Mr. *Edward Jamieſon*, Mr *Robert Rule*, Mr. *James* Rymer, Mr. *James* Frazer, Mr. *Alexander Forbes*, Mr. *John Anderſon* at *Perth*, Mr. *George Meldrum* at *Kilwining*, Mr. *Thomas* Ramſay, Mr. *Andrew Bowie*, Mr. *Robert Young*, Mr. *William Legat*, and Mr *William Mackie*, Miniſters: And the Lord Viſcount of *Arbuthnet*, the Laird of *Meggins*, the Laird of *Naughtoun*, the Laird of *Leuquhat*, and the Laird of *Greenknows*, Ruling Elders: To joyn with the Miniſters and Elders in the North after-mentioned, *Viz.* Mr *John Stewart*, Mr. *James Urquhart*, Mr *Alexander Dunbar*, Mr. *Alexander Frazer*, Mr. *Thomas Hogg*, Mr. *Hugh Henryſon*, Mr. *William Mackay*, Mr. *Walter Dinnoon*, Mr.

George Meldrum of *Glaſs*, Mr. *Arthur Mitchell*, Mr. *William Ramſay*, Mr. *Francis Melvil*, and Mr. *John* M^c^*ulloch* Miniſters: Together with the Earle of *Sutherland*, the Laird of *Brodie*, the Laird of *Grant*, the Laird of *Grange Dunbar*, the Laird of *Eight*, the Laird of *Culleden*, the Laird of *Dalfolly*, the Laird of *Park-Hay*, Sir *John Monro*, Sir *George Monro*, Sir *Robert Gordon* of *Embo*, *David Frazer* of *Mains*, Mr. *John Campbel*, of *Moy*, *Hector Monro* of *Drumond*, *Alexander Duff* of and *Robert Martyne* of *Burnbrae*, Ruling Elders: To be a Commiſſion for Viſiting the whole Presbyteries, on the North-ſide of the Water of *Tay*, In Planting Vacant Churches, Conſtituting Elderſhips in Congregations, Trying and Purging out of Inſufficient, Negligent, Scandalous and Erroneous Miniſters, by due courſe of Eccleſiaſtical Proceſs and Cenſures, according to the Particular Inſtructions given them thereanent, And for that effect, to have their firſt Dyet of Meeting, at *Aberdeen*, The Second *Wedneſday* of *March* next, and thereafter to appoint their own Dyets and Places of Meetting, as they ſee Expedient. With full Power to them, of their *Quorum* being ſeven Miniſters and three Ruling-Elders, to Iſſue out Warrants for Citing of Parties upon fifteen Free dayes, to Cognoſce, Determine and finally decide, in Planting of Vacant Churches, Conſtituting Elderſhips, and Trying and Purging out, all Inſufficient, Negligent, Scandalous and Erroneous Miniſters, conform to the particular Inſtructions given them thereanent. They being alwayes Countable to, and Cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly of this Church: And this Commiſſion to continue till the firſt of *November* next, or the Diet that ſhall be appointed for the next General Aſſembly.

XVIII.

Commiſſion for Mr. Gilbert Rule *and* Mr. David Blair, *to wait upon His Majeſty anent the Affairs of this Church.*

Eadem Seſſione.

THe General Aſſembly judging it Expedient, to ſend two of their Number to *London*, to attend his Majeſty, anent the Affairs of this Church; Does therefore Nominate and Appoint their Reverend Brethren, Mr. *Gilbert Rule*, one of the Miniſters of the City of *Edinburgh*, and Principal of the Colledge thereof, and Mr. *David Blair* another of the *Miniſters* of the ſaid City; with all convenient ſpeed to Repair to *London*, to attend His Majeſty,

jesty for the end foresaid: And Refers the Instructions to be given them, and what other things Concern their Journey, to the Commission for Visitations on the South side of *Tay* appointed by this Assembly.

This Assembly being Dissolved, and the next General Assembly appointed to be held at *Edinburgh* the first day of *November* next to come; The Members were dismissed with Prayer, Singing of the 133 Psalm, and pronouncing of the Blessing.

Collected, Visied and Extracted, from the Records of the said Assembly by Me

JOHN SPALDING *Cls. Syn: National.*

FINIS.

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FINIS.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THe whole Acts of the Aſſemblies, from the Year 1638 to the Year 1649 inclusive, Bound in Octavo, Are to be Sold by George Moſman Printer to this Church, at his Shop in the Parliament-Cloſe.

THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

Generall Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Conveened at *Edinburgh*, *March* 29. 1694.

Collected and Extracted from the Records By the Clerk thereof

EDINBURGH,

Printed by *George Mosman*, Printer to this CHURCH and Her ASSEMBLIES. *Anno Domini* M. DC XC V

THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Holden and Begun at *Edinburgh*, *March* 29. 1694. And Ending *April* 17. next thereafter.

I.

The Recording of Their Majesties *Commission to John* Lord *Carmichael, for Representing Their* Majesties *in this* General Assembly.

Edinburgh 29. March 1694. *Post Meridiem*. Sess. I.

THIS day, the *General Assembly* of this National Church being met and constitute Their was produced to them by a Noble Lord, *John* Lord *Carmichael*, Their Majesties *Commission*, under the Great Seal of the Kingdom of *Scotland*. Nominating and appointing Him, to be Their Majesties High Commissioner and Representative in this General Assembly: Which Commission was publickly Read, with all due Honour and Respect; And the General Assembly appointed, and hereby appoints, the said Commission to be Recorded, in the Books of the General Assembly, therein to remain, *ad futuram rei memoriam*, Whereof the *Tenor* follows, "*GULIELMUS* & "*MARIA*, Dei Gratia, Magnæ *Britanniæ*, *Franciæ* & "*Hiberniæ*, Rex & Regina, Fideique Defensores: Omnibus probis

" Hominibus ſuis, ad quos præſentes Literæ Noſtræ pervenerint,
" *Salutem.* Quandoquidem nos Regio noſtro Animo perpenden-
" tes, quam neceſſarium ſit ad Religionem Reformatam melius ſir-
" mandam, Pietatem & Sanctitatem Propagandam, & pacem & u-
" nitatem, in Eccleſiâ hâc, & in Antiqui ori noſtro Scotiæ Regno
" efficaciter acquirendam, Ut *Generalis* dictæ Eccleſiæ *Conventus*
" *Viceſimo Nono* die Menſis *Martii* Inſtantis debitè obſervetur;
" Nos autem in dicto Conventu intereſſe Nequimus: Ideoque Emi-
" nentiſſimi cuidam & Illuſtriſſimi Ordinis Viro, Fidelitate, Pietate,
" aliiſque perpulchris & ſingularibus animi dotibus imbuto, Sa-
" cras Noſtras Perſonas & Authoritatem, in eodem Repræſentandi,
" jus & poteſtatem committere Statuimus, Cumque Teſtimoniis
" perplurimis & probatis, abundé nobis Compertum ſit, de præcla-
" ris animi dotibus, fide Eximiâ & Intaminatâ Integritate fidiſſimi
" & prædilecti Noſtri Conſiliarii, *Joannis* Domini *Carmichael*;
" Speciatim vero, quod ſummâ cum fidelitate & prudentia, idem
" munus obiverat in priore Generali Conventu; Quodque ad mu-
" nera Officii illius Ritè Exercenda, & Pia & Regia noſtra propoſi-
" ta ſupra mentionata efficaciter promovenda, uſquequaque eſt I,
" doneus. *Noveritis* Igitur Nos nominâſſe, Conſtituiſſe & Ordinâſſe,
" ſicuti per haſce Noſtras patentes Literas Nominamus Cõſtitu mus
" & Ordinamus, Eundem *Joannem* Dominum *Carmichael*, Supre-
" mum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium, Quoad effectum infra ex-
" preſſum. Damus pariter & concedimus illi, ſacras Noſtras Per-
" ſonas & Authoritatem Regiam, Repræſentandi Locumque, No-
" ſtrum in dicto ſubſequenti Generali Conventu, tanquam Com-
" miſſionario Noſtro, in hunc effectum ſpecialiter conſtituto, Te-
" nendi, Omniaque alia ad Imperium & Munus Commiſſionarii,
" pro Generali Eccleſiæ Conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque
" liberé in quovis Reſpectu quam Quiliqet alius ejusdem Supremi
" Muneris & Characteris fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore retroacto fa-
" cere potuerat, atque adeo ſicuti Noſmet ipſe perſonaliter præſen-
" tes facere poſſemus, pleniſſimam & ampliſſimam Noſtram pote-
" teſtatem & Commiſſionem. Quæquidem omnia & ſingula, à
" dicto *Joanne* domino *Carmichael* in hâc Noſtrâ Commiſſione
" proſequendâ, legitimé facienda, Nos firmiter approbamus,
" Rata habemus & habituri ſumus. Omnibus & ſingulis Inſuper
" antedicti Conventus & Eccleſiæ Paſtoribus & Preſbyteris, & Cæ-
" teris quibuſcunque hujus Noſtri Regni Subditis, Cujuſcunque
" Qualitatis ſeu Conditonis, Ut dictum *Joannem* Dominum *Car-*
" *michael*, Tanquam Supremum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium,
" Quoad effectum & Modum ſupra mentionatum, Agnoſcant, Re-
" vereantur, & dicto ipſius Audientes ſe præbeant, ſtrictè Manda-
" mus & Imperamus. Ac denique hanc Noſtram Commiſſionem,
" á die quo Magnum hujus Regni Sigillum præſentibus eſt appen-
" ſum, durante toto tempore dicti Generalis Conventus, in vigore
" continuare Declaravimus, & per præſentes declaramus. In cujus

" Rei

"Rei Teſtimonium, Præſentibus Magnum Sigillum Noſtrum Ap-
"pendi præcepimus Apud Aulam Noſtram de *Kenſingtoun, Vige-*
"*ſimo Tertio* die *Martii*, Anno Domini Milleſimo Sex-
"centeſimo Nonageſimo quarto, Et anno Regni Noſtri quinto-

Per ſignaturam manu S. D. N. *Supraſcriptam.*

{ Locus Sigilli Appenſi }

IN DORSO:

Sealed at Edinburgh *the* 27. *day of* March 1694. *John Dickſon.*

Written to the great Seal, and Regiſtrat the 27. *day of* March 1694. Dun. Ronald *Dpt.*

II.

Appointment of a Diet to be kept by the Aſſembly for Prayer.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly Appoints to Morrow. being *Friday*, betwixt Nine and Twelve a Clock in the Forenoon, to be ſet a part for publick Prayer by the Members of this Aſſembly. And Recommends to all the ſaids Members to meet timouſly in the Aſſembly-Houſe for that effect.

III.

The General Aſſemblies Letter to his Majeſty:

Edinburgh 31 March 1694. *Ante Meridiem*, Seſſ. 2.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

WE the Miniſters and Elders, conveened in this preſent General Aſſembly of the Church of *Scotland*, are moſt ſenſible of the great Goodneſs of God, for which we do Bleſs His Holy Name, in Diſpoſing and Enabling Your Majeſty, to do ſo great Things for this Church, both Formerly,

merly and Now in Calling and Countenancing by Your Royal Authority this Aſſembly, which was ſo needful at this time; And in giving by Your High Commiſsioner, all Aſſurance of Your Royal Reſolutions to maintain Presbyterian Government in the Church of *Scotland*. We are alſo ſenſible, how much, under God, we owe unto Your Majeſtie, in a way of thankful Duty, on this behalf. And as Your Majeſty has done ſo much for our Religion and Liberties; ſo the Miniſters of this Eſtabliſhed Church, have fully Expreſſed and Demonſtrated to the World, their Unviolable Loyalty, and good Affection to Your Majeſties. And now *Great Sir*, Your Majeſty having put into our Hand, this ſeaſonable Opportunity, of imploying our ſelves, with Freedom and Liberty, about what may concern the Glory of God, and the Good of this National Church, in our Station and Capacity, under Your favourable Countenance and Protection; We are Reſolved through the Aſſiſtance of God, to apply our ſelves to our Buſineſs, ſo Aſſiduouſly and conſtantly, as that Your Majeſty may in a ſhort time, have a full Account of our proceedings, from Your High Commiſſioner the Lord *Carmichael*, Of whoſe Integrity, Prudence and Conduct, we have formerly had ſufficient Experience; And we are very hopeful, that Nothing ſhall proceed from this Aſſembly, that ſhall be uneaſie or diſſatisfying to Your Majeſty; But that we ſhall be found Faithfully to have endeavoured, amideſt all our Difficulties and Diſcouragements, the Healing, Compoſure and Peace of this Afflicted Church, and the furtherance of Your Majeſties Service in our Stations, as the Lord ſhall enable us. Our Fervent and Hearty Prayer to the Almighty God, is and ſhall be, That He by whom Kings Reign, may Bleſs Your Majeſty and the Queen, with the beſt of His Bleſſings, Preſerve Your Forces both by Sea and by Land; againſt the Common Enemy, And make Your Government Proſperous and Happy, To the Glory of His Great Name, to the Good of His Church, To the Advantage of Your People within Your own Dominions, And to the Comfort alſo of all that profeſs the True Reformed Religion elſewhere.

Signed in our Name, in our Preſence, and at our Appointment, By

JO: LAW *Moderator.*

IV.

IV.

Act anent the giving in of Commiſſions.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly taking to Conſideration, how inconvenient it is, That the Rolls of the Aſſembly ſhould be made up when the Aſſembly is met and actually ſitting, and how much time is unneceſſarly ſpent thereby; And being deſirous that for the future it may be Remeeded: Therefore the General Aſſembly doeth hereby Appoint, that in time coming, the Commiſſioners from preſbytries and others, ſhall give in their reſpective Commiſſions, to the Clerk of the General Aſſembly.. the Night at leaſt before the firſt Diet or Meeting thereof; To the effect the Rolls may be timouſly made up and that the Commiſſions may be conſidered by the Aſſembly without any Interruption through the Making of the Rolls. And the General Aſſembly Appoints, that any ſuch Commiſſions as may happen to de undelivered befor the ſaid firſt Diet, ſhall only be delivered in the Intervals betwixt the After Dyets, and no ways in preſence of the Aſſembly while actualy ſitting.

V.

Act anent the Repreſentation of Preſbytries in the General Aſſemblies.

Edinburgh 2. *April* 1694 Poſt meridem Seſſ. 3.

THE General Aſſembly doeth hereby Enact and Appoint, That in all time coming, the Repreſentation of the ſeveral Preſbytries of this National Church, in its General Aſſemblies, ſhall hold proportion to the number of Pariſhes, in which there are, or ought to be ſetled Miniſters, within each Preſbytry; in manner following, That is to ſay, That all Preſbytries conſiſting of *Twelve* Pariſhes, or under that Number, ſhall ſend *Two* Miniſters and One Ruling Elder: And that all Preſbytries conſiſting of *Eighteen* Pariſhes, or under that Number, but above Twelve, ſhall ſend Three Miniſters and One Ruling Elder: And that all Presbytries conſiſting of *Twenty Four* Pariſhes, or under that Number, but above Eighteen, ſhall

ſend Four Miniſters and Two Ruling Elders: And laſtly, That all Preſbytries conſiſting of *above Twenty Four* Pariſhes, ſhall ſend Five Miniſters and Two Ruling Elders, to the General Aſſemblies. And it is hereby declared, Collegiat Kirks, where there uſe to be Two or moe Miniſters, are, ſo far as concerns the deſign of this Act, underſtood to be as many diſtinct Paroches.

And farther the General Aſſembly hereby Enacts, Appoints and Declares, That no perſons ſhall be admitted Members of Aſſemblies, bur ſuch as are either Miniſters or Ruling Elders.

VI.

Act for the better Regulating Tranſportations of Miniſters, and Apeals thereanent.

Edinburgh 4. *April* 1694, Poſt meridem Seſſ. 5.

THE General Aſſembly taking to Conſideration, That deſigns of Tranſportations are become too common to many Paroches, and very troubleſome to Neighbouring Congregations, and to Church Judicatories; Therefore the General Aſſembly, herepy Recommends to all Paroches, who are or may be vacant, that before they deſign the Calling of any Miniſter already fixed in another Congregation, they do firſt ſeriouſly Eſſay and follow other means of providing themſelves, if they can be found. As alſo the General Aſſembly hereby Recommends, to all Preſbytries, That they do not concurr in any ſuch Call, or deſign of Tranſporting a Miniſter, from one Congregation to another; Unleſs by due comparing of places and all parties concerned, The diſproportion betwixt them, and the greater good of the Church be manifeſtly evident.

And ſiclike when any ſuch deſign of Tranſportation is purſued, The General Aſſembly hereby Ordains that all Parties concerned therein, ſhall debate with ſuch Meekneſs and Brotherly kindneſs, as becometh Parts and Members of the ſame Body of Chriſt, deſigning the good of the whole: And that they Repreſent their Reaſons and Anſwers, with due perſpicuity and all poſſible brevity, and that they do not needleſly expatiat on things which concerns not the True Merit of the Cauſe, And the General Aſſembly hereby prohibits all lengthning of Debates, by Replies and Duplies, unleſs the Judicatory before whom the debate lyes, find it neceſſary for clearing ſome matter

matter of Fact, or becauſe of ſome new matter that hath occurred, which could not be conſidered before.

And farther to prevent unneceſſary and contentious Appeals in ſuch Matters, It is hereby Declared and Ordained, That if both the competing Paroches be within the Bounds of the ſame Presbytry, In that Caſe, the Deciſion and Sentence of the Preſbytry ſhall take effect and be obeyed; Or if the Paroches be in different Presbytries, but both Presbytries within the ſame Synod, In that Caſe, the Deciſion and Sentence of the Synod ſhall alſo take effect and be obeyed: Seing theſe Reſpective Judicatories are equally concerned in both Paroches and may be thought fitteſt to Judge both of the Diſproportion of the Paroches, and the ſutableneſs and fitneſs of the Perſon Called, for either of the places. Yet always allowing Liberty to any Perſon or Paroch, who think themſelves Grieved, to Appeal to ſuperiour Judicatories, to have Redreſs by taking off the Sentence, and Cenſuring the reſpective Judicatory Complained of, if they be found to have Malverſed; But with this Certification, that if any be found unneceſſarly to purſue Appeals and Complaints, they ſhall be ſeverely Cenſured therefore.

VII.

Act anent the giving in of Proceſs, &c.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly Conſidering, how inconvenient it is, That Proceſſes or other Papers ſhould de brought in in preſence of the Aſſembly, while it is actually ſitting, without any previous acquainting the Moderator or Clerk therewith; DOTH therefore hereby Enact and Appoint, that all Proceſſes or other Papers be delivered to the Clerk, in the Intervals betwixt the Diets of the Aſſemblies Meeting: Declaring that ſuch as ſhall be otherways delivered, ſhall be laid aſide for that Diet.

VIII.

Act anent Appeals

Edinburgh 6 April 1694: *Poſt Meridiem* Seſſ. 7.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, for preventing ſome Miſtakes, that have happned about Appeals; DOTH hereby Appoint, That any Appeals made in write under the Appellants Hand with the Reaſons thereof, in preſence of the Judicatory Appeal'd from, ſhall be Extracted by the Appellant, in due Forme, from the *Records* of the ſaid Judicatory, and produced to the Judicatory Appeal'd to, at the diſcuſſing thereof, with a Citation of the Parties Defenders therein, either *apud acta* if they be preſent when the Appeal is made, or a ſeparat Citation if they be abſent.

And becauſe by the former practice, parties not inſtantly giving in their ſubſcribed Appeals at the time of the Sentence, were allowed verbally to Appeal, and proteſt for Liberty to give in their ſubſcribed Appeals with the *Reaſons* thereof, within the ſpace of Ten Dayes thereafter, And becauſe that before the ſaid ſpace the ſaid Judicatory may happen to be up; Therefore it is hereby appointed and Ordained, That all parties, who have immediatly after Sentence verbally Appeal'd and Proteſted as aforeſaid, ſhall within the ſaid ſpace of Ten Dayes, give in their ſaids ſubſcribed Appeals with the Reaſons thereof, to the Clerk of the Judicatory Appeal'd from, Notwithſtanding it may be up before that time: And likewayes that they ſhall within the ſame Ten Dayes, Intimat their ſaid Appeal with the Reaſons of the ſame, to the Moderator of the ſaid Judicatory, and leave an Authentick Copy thereof with him. Which Appeals and Reaſons are hereby allowed to be Regiſtrat by the Clerk, and Summons to be direct by him, for Citing the Parties Defenders thereupon. And Extracts thereof with the Citation foreſaid, are appointed to be produced by the Appellants, at diſcuſſing, to the Judicatory Appeal'd to. And the General Aſſembly hereby appoints the Clerk, to Intimate to the ſaid Judicatory, at their firſt Meeting thereafter, that ſuch Appeals were given in to him in the Intervals of their Meetings.

And ſicklike the General Aſſembly hereby Appoints, that all Defenders in Appeals, who inſiſt for diſcuſſiug thereof, ſhall produce Extracts of the ſaids Appeals and Reaſons to the Judicatory

tory Appea'ld to. And laſtly, The General Aſſembly hereby Declares, that any Appeals or inſiſtings thereanent otherways made ſhall be Rejected.

IX.

Act anent Lecturing.

Edinburgh 10 April 1694 *Poſt Meridiem*, Seſſ 9.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, Conſidering, how Neceſſary and Edifying it is, That the People be well acquaint with the Holy Scriptures; DOTH therefore Recommend to the ſeveral Presbytries, that they endeavour, that the Miniſters within their reſpective Bounds, ſhall in their Exercife of Lecturing, Read and open up to the people, ſome Large and Conſiderable portion of the Word of God. And this to the effect, the old Cuſtom Introduced and Eſtabliſhed by the Directory, may by degrees be Recovered.

X.

Act anent Probationers.

Edinburgh 11 April 1694. *Poſt Meridiem* Seſſ. 10.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church hereby Appoints, That no Preſbytry ſhall admit any perſon to Trial, in order to preaching, but ſuch as are of Sound Principles, and of a Sober, Grave, Prudent and Pious Behaviour and of whom they have Ground to conceive good Hopes, that they ſhall be Uſeful and Edifying in the Church. And for this end it is hereby appointed, That ſuch perſons ſhall produce before the Presbytries who admit them to Tryal, ſufficient Teſtimonials from the Miniſters of the Paroches where they lived, and from the Presbytries in whoſe Bounds they reſide, and alſo from the Profeſſors of Divinity, where they may have attended the Profeſſion for ſome time, And if the ſaids perſons come from a place

where there is no Presbytry yet Constitute according to the Legal Establishment, They shall produce Testificates from the next adjacent Presbytry, who are to inform themselves concerning their Principles and Behaviour, and to Testify of them accordingly.

And siclike the General Assembly hereby Appoints, That when such persons are first Licensed to be Probationers, They shall oblidge themselvs to Preach only within the bounds, or by the Direction of that Presbytry, which did License them; And they shall also by promise and Subscription, engage themselves, That they shall be subject to the Presbytry that did License them, or to any other Church Judicatory, wherein providence they shall have there abode, for shorter or longer time: And that they shall follow no divisive course: And this their Engagement shall be insert in the body of their License. And farther, the General Assembly appoints, That when they are removing from that Presbytry which did License them, They shall carry with them an Extract of their Licence, and a Testimonial from the Presbytry of their Carriage, which they are to present to the Presbytry to which they come, or at least to some Minister therein, before they preach within that bounds; And which Minister is not to imploy them, except in his own Pulpit, until he give notice thereof to the Presbytry at their next meeting, and have their allowance. As also it is hereby appointed that the said Presbytry to which the saids Probationers so come, shall require the same subjection and orderly Carriage, from the saids Probationers, during their abode in that bounds to which they were ingaged. to the presbytry by which they were Licensed, And if they go to any place where a Presbytry is not yet Constitute according to the Lagal Establishment, They shall be oblidged before They preach in that bounds, to make their address to the next adjacent and legally Erected Presbytry, to whom they shall be subject, and by whom they shall be directed as aforesaid.

And in case The saids Probationers Malverse in Doctrine or Conversation, They shall be Countable to, and Censurable by the foresaid Respective Judicatories, as they shall see cause, And if the saids Probationers refuse Subjection or prove Contumacious to such Censure, whether of Reproof, Suspending the exercise of their Licence, or of Recalling the said Licence; Intimation shall be made thereof by the saids Judicatory, to the Neighbouring Judicatories, or where they shall understand the saids Probationers are, That so none may imploy Them to preach, nor their after Irregularities be imputed to the Presbytries that did Licence them, or where they afterwards had their abode

It is always hereby expresly Provided and declared, That the foresaids Probationers are not to be esteemed by themselvs or others to preach by vertue of any Pastoral Office, but only to make way for their being called to a Pastoral Charge. XI

XI.

Act approving Overtures anent A Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, and Inſtructions thereto.

Edinburgh 13 *April* 1694. Poſt Meridiem. Seſſ. 13.

THIS day, The following Overtures and Inſtructions were Read in preſence of the General Aſſembly. The Tenor whereof follows.

"1. It is Overtured to the General Aſſembly, That there be a "Commiſſion appointed by this General Aſſembly, to meet and "take ſuch Affairs under their conſideration, as the General Aſ- "ſembly ſhall think fit to commit to them.

"2. That out of this Commiſſion, There be a certain Number "ſpecially appointed by the General Aſſembly, as a Committee "to go to the North, with Power to the Commiſſion to add any "more of their Number, as they think fit.

"3 That this Commiſſion conſiſt of Fifty Miniſters and "Twenty five Ruling Elders, Fifteen to be the *Quorum*, of whom "Ten to be Miniſters.

"4. That out of this Commiſſion, Fifteen Miniſters and five "Ruling Elders, Beſides theſe Miniſters and Ruling Elders of the "North, who ſhall be named in the foreſaid Commiſſion, Be ap- "pointed as a Committee, as ſaid is, To go to the North; Thir- "teen of which Committee to be the *Quorum*, of whom ſeven to "be of theſe Commiſſioners who are on the South ſide of *Tay*; "And of theſe ſeven, Five at leaſt to be Miniſters. And that the "ſaid Committee, have the ſame power on the North ſide of *Tay* "as the Commiſſion it ſelf.

"5. That the General Aſſembly appoint the firſt Meeting of "this Commiſſion, and that the Meeting be before the Mem- "bers go out of Town after the Aſſembly Ends; And that the "Commiſſion do appoint their own After-Meetings, and "likeways the time when the ſaid Committee ſhould meet in the "North.

"6. That this Commiſſion may receive into Miniſterial Com- "munion, ſuch of the late Conform Miniſters, as having quali- "fied themſelves according to Law, ſhall apply perſonally to "them, One by one, duely and orderly, and ſhall acknowledge, "Engage, and Subſcribe upon the end of the *Confeſſion of Faith*, "as follows *viz.*

I Do ſincerely own and declare. The above Confeſſion of Faith, approven by former General Aſſemblies of this Church and Ratified by Law in the Year 1690. *to be the Confeſſion of My*

Faith; And that I own the Doctrine therein Contained, to be the True Doctrine, which I will constantly adhere to; As likewayes that I own and acknowledge Presbyterian Church Government of this Church, Now setled by law, By Kirk Sessions, Presbytries, Provincial Synods and General Assemblies, To be the Only Government of This Church, And that I will submit thereto, concurr therewith, and never endeavour Directly nor Indirectly, the prejudice or subversion thereof; And that I shall observe Uniformity of Worship, and of the Administration of all publick Ordinances within this Church, as the same are at present performed and allowed.

"And the Commission is to have special Regard to their Ministerial qualifications. And if any of the saids Ministers so applying or any other Ministers within this Church, of what perswasion soever, shall be accused or informed against, of any Scandal, Error, Supine Negligence or Insufficiency, Then the said Commission shall make Inquiry thereinto, cite parties, lead Witnesses, take Depositions, and do every other thing that may clear the matter of Fact informed against them, and Report the same and their Diligence therein to the next General Assembly. Providing always, that if any be accused of Gross uncontrovered Scandals, and these clearly proven; In that case the Commission shall proceed to Determine as they find cause: As it is likewayes expected of all Presbytries in this Kingdom, That they will use that Discretion in their behavour and Government, as that (during the continuance of this Commission) in all Processes against any Ministers, they advise with their Respective Synods, or in case of urgent necessity, consult with the said Commission. As also that the General Assembly Require all Presbytries and Synods, in their admiting or Receiving any to Ministerial Communion, That they oblidge them, to take and subscribe the above *Acknowledgement*: And that during the said time, neither this Commission, or any other Judicatory of this Church, do take advantage to censure any Minister whatsomever, for not having qualified himself, in the terms of the Act of Parliament 1693. Intituled *Act for setling the Quiet and Peace of the Church*, As likewayes that the said Commission and all other Judicatories are to take care, that if any shall be found to have Maliciously or Calumniously accused any Minister, They shall be condignly censured, according to the order and practice of this Church. As also that the Assembly ordain, That none of these Ministers who are not presently in charge, be received into Ministerial Communion, but by the said Commission, or by that Presbytry or Synod of the bounds in which They now Reside.

7. That

"7. That this Commission and Committee foresaid shall be "careful to settle Elderships and plant Ministers, in vacant Congre-"gations on the North side of *Tay*, Either by ordaining well qua-"lified Expectants (who shall be bound at their entry to Subscribe "the said Confession of Faith with the *Acknowledgement* above "expreſt) Or by Transporting Ministers, who shall be called by any "vacant Congregation therein (the Presbytry to which they be-"long being first applyed unto) Requiring all Ministers who shall "be so called, to give obedience to these sentences of Transporta-"tion, With power likewayes to the said Commission, to re-"ceive any Appeals that shall be made in any process of Tran-"sportation of a Minister from one Synod to another (which Ap-"peals may be from any such Presbytry to the Synod or Com-"mission, which of these two shall first happen to sit) And to de-"termine finally therein as they find cause.

"8. And seing there are diverse processes led before several Ju-"dicatories of this Church, against Mr. *John Hepburn*, which by "References there anent ly before this Assembly. That therefore "the General Assembly do Remit these Processes to the conside-"ration of the said Commission. And it being informed that se-"veral Aspersions are laid on the Ministers and Judicatories of "this Church, by some persons as if the saids Ministers and Ju-"dicatories had Receded from the known Principles thereof, In "Relation to the Constitution and Government of the Church "contained in the Confession of Faith, Tho' the contrary thereof "be evident, Not only by the Ministers of this Church their own-"ing of, and adhereing to the said Confession, wherein these "Principles are contained, But also by the whole course of their "Ministry; That therefore the General Assembly Require the "said Commission, to take all due pains to inform, convince and "satisfie any such persons, of their Mistakes, that they may be "Reclaimed.

"9. That such References and Appeals as the General Assem-"bly cannot overtake to determine, and shall be particularly "Remitted to the said Commission by the Assembly; The same "shall by the said Commission be taken to consideration, Cog-"nosced upon, and finally determined as they see cause.

"10. That this Commission do not take on them to medle with "any thing not contained in Their Commission; And that in all "their Actings, They be Countable to, and Censurable by the next "ensuing General Assembly.

"And Lastly that this Commission continue till the second "Teusday of *April* 1695. or the meeting of the next General "Assembly, which soever of these two shall first happen.

All which Overtures and Instructions above set down being maturely considered, The General Assembly of this

National Church hereby Approves thereof: And Recommends and Appoints according thereto in all points.

XII.

Act anent Proceſſes againſt Miniſters.

Edinburgh 14 April 1694. *Poſt Meridiem* Seſſ. 13

THE General Aſſembly doth ſeriouſly Recommend to all the Presbytries of this Church, to proceed in all Proceſſes againſt Miniſters, with all due Circumſpection and Prudence, And that they Conſult their reſpective Synods, or in caſe of Urgent Neceſſity, the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, therein. And the General Aſſembly hereby Requires, That no Judicatory of this Church, do take advantage, to Cenſure any Miniſter whatſomever, for not having qualified himſelf in the Terms of the Act of Parliament 1693. Intituled, *Act for ſetling the Quiet and Peace of the Church.* And this Act to endure, only till the Second Teuſday of *April* 1695. Or the Meeting of the next General Aſſembly, which of the Two ſhall firſt happen.

XIII.

Act againſt Prophaneneſs.

Edinburgh 16 April 1694. *Poſt Meridiem* Seſſ. 14.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, taking into ſerious Conſideration, how much God is diſhonoured by the Impiety and Prophaneneſs that aboundeth in this Nation, in prophane and idle Swearing, Curſing, Sabbath breaking, Neglect and Contempt of Goſpel Ordinances, Mocking of Piety and Religious Exerciſes, Fornication, Adultery, Drunkenneſs, Blaſphemy and other Groſs and Abominable Sins and Vices: And how much it concerns the Honour and Glory of God, that the ſame be Reſtrained and Suppreſſed, and that Vertue and Godlineſs be encouraged: And alſo what may be the Remedies of theſe deteſtable Sins; DOTH therefore Exhort and Require, That Miniſters and all who Fear God, have on their Hearts, a deep Humbling and Soul-affecting Senſe of theſe Evils, and

and be much in Prayer and Supplication before God on this account· And that all the Miniſters of this Church preach plainly & faithfully againſt theſe Vices, and Denonnce the threatned Judgements, of God againſt ſuch Evil doers, And deal earneſtly & much with their Conſciences, to bring them to a Conviction and Senſe of their Sin and Danger. As alſo the General Aſſembly appoints, That Church Judicatories do faithfully Exerciſe Church Diſcipline againſt all ſuch Scandalous Offenders, with that Gravity, Prudence and Meekneſs of Wiſdom, as by the Bleſſing of God, may prove an Effectual Mean of Reforming and *Recovering* the Guilty, and of preventing the like Sins in Others.

And farther the General Aſſembly Requires that care be taken in the Receiving of Servants, that they have Teſtimonials of their Honeſt and Chriſtian Behaviour; And that the ſame be Required of all Others, who Flitt and Remove from one Paroch to another.

And alſo the General Aſſembly appoints, That the Miniſters and Elders in each Congregation take care that the Worſhip of God be performed in the ſeveral Families thereof, And if any Family be found which neglecteth this neceſſary Duty, The Head of that Family is to be Gravely, Seriouſly and Earneſtly Admoniſhed, untill he amend his Fault. And Recommends to Miniſters and Kirk Seſſions, That none be Ruling Elders, who make not Conſcience of this neceſſary and unqueſtionable Duty: And that no groſly Ignorant and Scandalous Perſon be admitted to the *Lord's Table.*

And likewayes The General Aſſembly Recommends to all Miniſters and Kirk-Seſſions, That they carefully apply to the ſeveral Magiſtrats of their Bounds, that the Acts of Parliament againſt Prophaneneſs, may be put in Execution, and particularly the Act of Parliament *June* 15. 1693. Intituled, *Act againſt Prophaneneſs.*

And Laſtly, The General Aſſembly Ordains that this preſent Act be publickly Read and Intimate in all Churches.

XIV.

XIV.

Act appointing ſome Miniſters for the Supply of the North.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, Taking to Conſideration, the many Vacancies in this Church, by North the Water of *Tay*, and the paucity of Miniſters in theſe parts, who are in any Condition to give Supply without their own Congregations; And alſo having before them, the Petitions of ſeveral Noblemen, Gentlemen and Magiſtrates of Burghs living in theſe Parts: Therefore the General Aſſembly have Ordained and hereby Ordain, That the Synods be South *Tay*, ſhall ſend North the Number of *Sixteen Miniſters*, according to the proportions aftermentioned, For ſupply of the Vacancies within the Synods of *Angus* and *Mearns*. *Aberdeen*, *Murray*, *Roſs*, *Sutherland* and *Caithneſs*. That is to ſay, That there be *Two* ſent to ſupply the Vacancies of *Angus* and *Mearns*, including the Kirk of *Ratry*. *Four* to ſupply the Vacancies within the Town and Province of *Aberdeen*. *Six* to ſupply the Vacancies within the Synod of *Murray*. And *Four* to ſupply the Vacancies within the Synods of *Roſs*, *Southerland* and *Caithneſs*. And Ordains that the Synods of *Fyffe*, *Perth*, *Louthiam*, *Merſe*, and *Teviotdal*, *Glaſgow*, *Galloway* and *Drumfrees*, do ſend to the North for that effect the Miniſters after named. *viz.* From the Synod of *Fyffe* Mr. *Thomas Ruſſel* at *Kenneway*, and Mr. *James Haddow* at *Coupar*. From the Synod of *Louthian* Mr. *John Frazer* at *Glencorſs*, Mr. *Donald Campbel* at the *Queensferry*, Mr. *Robert Livingſtoun* at *Libbertoun* in the Presbytry of *Biggar*, and Mr. *Robert Colvil* at *Baro*. From the Synod of *Perth* any one of their Number to ſupply the Congregation of *Ratray*. From the Synod of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale* Mr. *George Guthry* at *Oxnam*, and Mr. *John Dyſart* at *Langtoun*. From the Synod of *Glaſgow*, Mr. *James Brisbane* at *Kilmalcolme*, Mr. *Andrew Tait* at *Carmunock*, Mr. *John Glaſgow* at *Kilburnie*, Mr. *Duncan Campbel* at *Roſneath* (or any other for him having the Iriſh Tongue, whom the Presbytry of *Dumbartoun* ſhall Appoint) and Mr. *Andrew Rogers* at *Galſtoun*. From the Synod of *Galloway*, Mr. *John Murdoch* at *Corſmichael*. And from the Synod of *Drumfreis*, Mr. *William Somervel* at *Traquier*, IN all Sixteen: WHO are hereby Ordained to Repair to the Commiſſion of this General Aſſembly to meet at *Edinburgh*, againſt the Eighteen day of *April* inſtant, and

See The Commiſſions Act therein, after the Index of the unprinted Acts

and receive Directions from the said Commission, to go to such particular Synods in the North, as it shall direct, and thereafter to be advised by the Ministers Residing in these respective Synods to what particular Congregations they shall apply themselves: And likewayes the General Assembly Ordains that the saids Ministers, make all diligence (with the Lord's Assistance) to be at the respective places to which they are to be sent, against the *first Sabbath of June* next, where they are to continue for the space of *Three Months*,. At which time, the General Assembly doth hereby Ordain the abovewritten Synods of the South, to send a New Supply to the North, of as many Ministers more (if need require) to continue for the *Second Quarter*: And so forth *Quarterly*, ay and while the sitting of the next General Assembly: And that according to the proportion underwritten, To wit, from the Synod of *Fife* Three. From the Synod of *Perth* One. From the Synod of *Lowthian* Four From the Synod of *Merse* Two, From the Synod of *Glasgow* Four. From that of *Galloway* One, And from that of *Drumfrees* One. But with this provision, That according as the Vacancies in the *North* shall be filled, and the Necessity of Supplies grow less, The remotest of the saids Synods shall be first eased. And farther because, the Synod of *Glasgow*, *Galloway*, and *Drumfrees*, are not to meet in their respective provincial Assemblies, before the expiring of the first *Quarter* of the above appointed time; Therefore the General Assembly doth now Nominate and Appoint the Ministers afternamed, to be sent *North*, in manner aforementioned, From these Three Synods for the Second *Quarter*, *viz.* From the Synod of *Glasgow* Mr *John Laury* at *Auchenleck*, Mr. *Archibald Hamiltoun* at *Cambuslang*, Mr. *Alexander King* at *Bonnel*, and Mr. *David Meldrum* Preacher. From the Synod of *Galloway* Mr. *Andrew Stewart* at *Kells*. And from the Synod of *Drumfrees*, Mr *Georg Boyd* at *Glencairn*.

And the General Assembly Recomends to the Respective Presbytries, to take care to supply the Kirks of these Ministers; And also of such as are upon the Commission to meet at *Edinburgh*, And of these that are upon the Committee that is to go to the *North* during their ablence, And that in a more punctual way than other Vacancies.

XV.

Recommendation anent Vacant Stipends.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly Finding it neceſſary for Support and Propagation of the Work of the Goſpel, To ſend a conſiderable Number of Miniſters, from the Remoteſt parts of this Kingdom, to the Synods in the North, which doth Require a neceſſary Expence. And it being found in Law, That ſuch as ſo ſerve Vacant Congregations, Merit and ought to be Maintained out of the Stipend, during the time that they ſerve; Which certainly is the moſt proper and preferable Pious Uſe a Stipend can be applied to; Therefore the General Aſſembly doth humbly Deſire Their *Majeſties* High Commiſſioner, That he would in the Aſſemblies Name Apply to Their Majeſties, For a General Recommendation to the Lords of Privy Council, Lords of Theaſury and Exchequer, Lords of Seſſion and other Judges whatſomever, In *Favours* of ſuch as ſhall by Order foreſaid ſerve Vacant Congregations; That they may have acceſs for Maintenance out of the Vacant Stipends, during the time they ſerve,

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XVI.

Act anent Intruſion upon Kirks.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly being Informed, that there are diverſe Churches Intruded upon, by ſeveral Perſons, in a moſt Illegal and Unwarrantable Manner, DOTH therefore Recommend to the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly which is to meet at *Edinburgh*, and to the Committee for the North *Reſpective*, to make Enquiry thereinto, And to Apply to the Lords of Privy Council, to declare the Intruſion; To the effect, the Kirks Intruded into, may be orderly planted with their Lordſhips Aſſiſtance.

XVII.

XVII.

Act anent Exerciſe and Addition, Privy Cenſures, and Burſars of Theology.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly Doth Earneſtly Recomend to the ſeveral Presbytries within this Church, to ſet up the uſe of Exerciſe and Addition; As alſo that of Privy Cenſures; Conform to the ancient practice of this Church; And appoints their Diligence therein, to be Recorded in their Reſpective Regiſters. And ſiclike the General Aſſembly hereby Recommends to the ſeveral Preſbytries, that they be careful to keep and Maintain Burſars of Theology, Conform to the ancient practice and the Acts of former General Aſſemblies made thereanent.

XVIII.

Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly for ſome Commiſſioners to meet at Edinburgh.

Edinburgh 17 *April* 1694. Poſt Meridem Seſſ. 15. & *Ult.*

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, Taking to Conſideration, How Requiſite it is in the preſent Juncture, That there be a Commiſſion appointed for ſuch Affairs as this Aſſembly ſees fit to Commit thereto; DOTH therefore by theſe preſents. Nominat and appoint, Maſter *William Mekay* Miniſter at *Dornoch*, Mr. *William Stewart* at *Kiltearne*, Mr *Hugh Anderſon* at *Cromarty*, Mr. *Alexander Dumbar* at *Aldearn*, Mr. *Alexander Forbes* at Dyke, Mr. *Thomas Thomſon* at *Forreſs*, Mr. *James Urquart* at *Kinloſs*, Mr. *Francis Melvill* at *Arbuthnet*, Mr. *John Spalling* at Dundee, Mr *Thomas Forreſter* at St. *Andrews*, Mr. *Andrew Bowie* at *Ciruſs*, Mr. *John Anderſon* at *Leſly*, Mr. *Archibald Riddel* at *Weems*, Mr. *Edward Jamieſon* at *Monymail*, Mr *Samuel Nairn* at *Errol*, Mr. *Michael Potter* at *Dumblain*, Mr. *George Turnbull* at *Alloway*.

Mr. Alexander Douglaſs at *Logy*, Mr. John Law at *Edinburgh*, Mr. Davia Blair there, Mr James Kirton there, Mr. George *Meldrum* there, Mr. Gilbert Rule there, Mr George Campbel there, Mr. *William* Mein at Dalkeith, Mr. William *Burnet* at *Calder*, Mr. John Anderſon at *Weſt Kirk*, Mr John *Moncreiſe* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. Thomas *Wilky* in Canongate, Mr. William Crichton at Falkirk, Mr. *Patrick* Guming at *Ormiſtoun*, Mr. George *Barclay* at *Strathbrock*, Mr. John *Vetch* at *Weſtruther*, Mr. Gabriel Semple at Jedburgh, Mr. *William Vetch* at Drum*frees*, Mr. Robert *Paton* at Carlaverock, Mr. William Jack at Biggar, Mr. Archibald Hamiltoun at Wigton, Mr. David Wil*liamſon* at Weſt-Kirk. Mr. James Oſburn at *Kilmarnock*, Mr. Thomas *Lining* at Leſmahagoe, Mr. *Patrick Simpſon* at Ren*frew*, Mr. William Dunlap Principal of the Coledge of *Glaſgow*, Mr. Robert *Langlands* at *Glaſgow*, Mr. John Monro at Ro*theſay*, Mr. *Mungo* Wat*ſon* at *Gladſmure*, Mr. Thomas Ram*ſay* at *Calder*, Mr. Charles Gordon at Dalmeny, Mr. William Boyd at *Dal*ry and Mr. William Mackie at *Portmoak*, Miniſters: With *William* Earl of Crawford, George Earl of Sutherland, Robert Viſcount of Arbuthnet, William Lord Roſs, David Lord Ruthven, *Pa*trick Lord Polwarth, Robert Maſter of Burleigh, Adam Cock*burn* of *Ormiſtoun* Lord Juſtice Clerk, Sir Coline Campbel of Aberuchill, and Mr John Hamiltoun of Halcraig, Two of the Se*nators* of the Colledge of Juſtice, Mr. Francis Montgomery of Giffane, Lodovick Grant of that ilk, Duncan Forbes of Collvaen, James Brody of that ilk, Adam Drummond of Meggins, William Bayly of Lamingtoun, John Home of Ninewells Sir John Hall of Dunglas preſent Lord Proveſt of *Edinburgh*, James Pringle of Torwoodlie, Sir Coline Campbel of Ardkinlas. Sir Thomas Stewart of Kirkfield, Sir Archibald Mu*e* of Thorntoun. *Forbes* of *Eight*, David Roſs of *Balnagown*, and Adam Gordon of Dalfolly Ruling Elders: To be Commiſſioners of this General Aſſembly, to the effect after expreſt, WITH full power and Commiſſion to the ſaids perſons, or their *Quorum* which is hereby declared to be any Fifteen of the ſaids Commiſſioners, whereof Ten at leaſt are alwayes to be Miniſters, to meet and Conveen within the *Aſſembly-Houſe* at Edinburgh, upon the Day nixt and immediatly following the Diſſolution of this General Aſſembly, at Ten a Clock in the Forenoon, for their firſt Meeting. And to appoint their After-Diets of Meeting: as they ſhall ſee convenient: As alſo to chuſe their own Mederator, in caſe of the Abſence of the Moderator of this Aſſembly. And ſiclike the General Aſſembly fully Impowers and Authorizes the ſaids Commiſſioners and their *Quorum* foreſaid, To Conſider, Cognoſce and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, In all References, Appeals and other Mat-

ters,

ters, That have been, or ſhall be particularly Remitted to them, for that effect, by any Act or Order of this Aſſembly; All which are holden as herein expreſt: And ſpecially to proceed and Cognoſce in every thing, contained in, and conform to the Overtures and Inſtructions thereanent, Approven by the General Aſſembly upon the thirteen Day of *April* Inſtant, Intituled *Overtures anent A Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, and Inſtructions thereto*, as full and freely, as if the ſame were in theſe preſents, at full length inſert and ſet down; Likeas the General Aſſembly hereby Prohibits the ſaids Commiſſioners, to medle in any other matter, not herein contained: Declaring alſo that in and for all their Actings, the ſaids Commiſſioners ſhall be Countable to, and Cenſurable by the next enſuing General Aſſembly of this Church. And laſt the General Aſſembly hereby Declares, that this Commiſſion ſhall continue till the ſecond Tueſday of *April*, One Thouſand Six Hundred and Nynty five Years, or the next Meeting of the General Aſſembly, which of theſe Two ſhall firſt happen.

XIX.

Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly to a Committee for the North ſide of Tay.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, Taking to Conſideration, How Requiſite it is in the preſent Juncture, That there be a Committee Appointed for the North ſide of *Tay*, for ſuch Affairs as the Aſſembly ſees fit to commit thereto. DOTH therefore by theſe preſents Nominat and Appoint, Maſter *William Chrichtoun* Miniſter at *Falkirk*, Mr. *David Williamſon* at *Weſtkirk*, Mr. *Patrick Cuming* at *Ormiſtonn*, Mr. *Robert Langlands* at *Glaſgow*, Mr. *James Osburn* at *Kilmarnock*, Mr. *William Dunlop* Principal of the College of *Glaſgow*, Mr. *John Anderſon* at *Leſly*, Mr. *William Boyd* at *Dalry*, Mr. *George Trunbul* at *Alloway*, Mr. *Mungo Watſon* at *Gladſmure*, Mr *Charles Gordon* at *Dalmeny*, Mr. *Archibald Riddel* at *Weems*, Mr. *John Monro* at *Rotheſay*, Mr. *Alexander Douglaſs* at *Logie*, and Mr. *William Mackie* at *Portmock* Miniſters. With *David* Lord *Ruthven*, *Robert* Maſter of *Burleigh*, *James Pringle* of *Torwoodlie*, *Adam Drummond* of *Meggins*, and *John Home* of *Ninewelis* Ruling Elders: Toge-

ther with these Ministers and Ruling Elders of the *North* aftermentioned, that are contained in another Commission of this Assembly, Appointed to meet at *Edinburgh*, dated and past upon the day and date of these presents. *viz.* Mr. *William Mckay* Minister at *Dornok*, M. *William Stewart* at *Kiltearn*, Mr. *Hugh Anderson* at *Cromarty*, Mr. *Alexander Dumbar* at *Aldearne*, Mr. *Alexander Forbes* at *Dyke*, Mr. *Thomas Thomson* at *Forress*, Mr. *James Urquhart* at *Kinloss*, Mr. *Frances Melvil* at *Arbuthnet*, Mr. *John Spalding* at *Dundee* and Mr. *Samuel Nairn* at *Errol* Ministers: With *Robert* Viscount of *Arbuthnet*, *Lodovick Grant* of that *Ilk*, *James Brodie* of that *Ilk*, *Duncan Forbes* of *Colloden*, *David Ross* of *Balnagown*, *Adam Gordon* of *Dalfoly*, and *Forbes* of *Eight* Ruling Elders: Together also with any others that shall be added to them by the said Commission which is to meet at *Edinburgh*, out of their own Number: TO be a Committee of this General Assembly for the North side of *Tay*, to the effect after expresst. WITH full Power and Commission to the saids Persons or their *Quorum*, which is hereby Declared to be any *Thirteen* of the said Committee, of whom Seven shall be of the Commissioners, who are on the South side of *Tay*, and of these Seven, Five at least to be Ministers. To Meet and Conveen at such Time and Place as the foresaid other Commission which is to meet at *Edinburgh*, shall Appoint, for their first meeting; With Power to the said Committee and their *Quorum* foresaid, To appoint their own after diets and Places of Meeting, as they shall see convenient, As also to chuse their own Moderator. And siclike the General Assembly hereby fully Impowers and Authorizes the said Committee and *Quorum* thereof aforesaid, To Consider, Cognosce and finally Determine, in all References, Appeals and other Matters, that have been, or shall be particularly Remitted to them, for that effect, by any Act or Order of this Assembly; All which are holden as herein expresst. And specially to Proceed and Cognosce in every thing, contained in, and conform to the Overtures and Instructions thereanent, approven by this Assembly upon the Thirteen day of *April* instant Intituled, *Overtures anent* A *Commission of the* General A*ssembly and Instructions thereto*, as fully and freely, as if the same were in these Presence, at full length Insert and set down; Likeas the General Assembly hereby prohibites the said Committee, To medle in any other matter, not herein contained. Declaring also, That in and for all their Actings, the said Committee shall be Countable to, and Censurable by the next ensuing General Assembly of this Church. And Lastly the General Assembly hereby Declares, That this Commission shall continue till the Second Tuesday of *April* One Thou-

Thouſand Six Hundred and Ninety Five Years, or the meeting of the next General Aſſembly, which of theſe Two ſhall firſt happen.

XX.

Act anent the Iriſh *Pſalms.*

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, Taking to Conſideration, That there is a Compleat Paraphraſe of the whole Pſalms in *Iriſh* Meeter, Approven and Emitted by the Synod of *Argyl*, who underſtand the *Iriſh* Language, Conform to an Act of the General Aſſembly 1690. Together with a Tranſlation of the Shorter Catechiſm of this Church in *Iriſh*, Bound with the ſaids Pſalms in one Volume And the General Aſſembly Underſtanding, That in ſome parts of this National Church, where Preaching and Prayer are uſed in *Iriſh*, The Pſalms are Sung at the ſame Diet in a different Language, whereby an Uniformity in the Worſhip of God is marred and many of the People deprived of the Benefit of Praiſing God in a Known Tongue: Therefore, as the General Aſſembly doth hereby Appoint, That this Incongrous way of Worſhiping God ſhall be hereafter forborn; So they do Recommend to all Congregations and Families who Worſhip God in the *Iriſh* Language, to make uſe of the ſaid Paraphraſe therein; And alſo to make uſe of the foreſaid Tranſlation of the Shorter Catechiſm, as an Uniform Mean of Catechiſing the People.

XXI.

Act againſt fixing in the Lowlands *of Preachers who have the* Iriſh *Language.*

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, Taking to Conſideration, That the *Highlands* of *Scotland* are Deprived of many Preachers, who have the *Iriſh* Lan-

guage,

guage, Contrary to diverſe Acts of former General Aſſemblies; Which is occaſioned in a great part, by the fixing of ſuch as have the *Iriſh* Language, in Congregations within the *Lowlands*: Therefore the General Aſſembly Doth hereby ſeriouſly Recommend to all Presbytries, That they fix No ſuch Preachers or Intrants as have the *Iriſh* Language, in any Congregations within the Lowlands of *Scotland*, without the Conſent of, and a Teſtificat from The Presbytries in the *Highlands*, where they formerly Reſided. And this Act to continne till ſuch time as the *Highlands* ſhall be competently provided with Miniſters.

The next General Aſſembly of this National Church, is to be held at Edinburgh, *The firſt Thurſday of* April 1695. Years.

The Aſſembly being clos'd; The Members were diſmiſs'd with Prayer, and Singing of the 122 *Pſalm and pronouncing of the Bleſſing.*

Collected, Viſied and Extracted, From the Records of the General Aſſembly, By Me. ROB. PARK.

FINIS.

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Recommendation to the ſeveral Presbytries for a Collection, to be ſent in to *John Watſon* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, for Mr. *George Gordon*, *Ib.*

Act allowing ſome to conſer with Mr. *William Vetch*, without prejudice to the Aſſemblies Sentence Tranſporting him to *Drumfrees*. Seſſ. 14.

Act appointing a Miniſter for ſupplying the Kirk of Old *Aberdeen* for a time. *Ib.*

Reference to the Committee for the *North* anent an *Intruſion* upon the Kirk of *Foverane*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Committee for the *North* to cauſe Cite Mr. *Strimzeour*, and determine anent his Intereſt in the paſtoral Office at *Dundee*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh* to Receive Overtures anent the form of *Procedure* in Church Judicatories, in order to the making a frame thereof, and to Report to the next Aſſembly. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, To write to Mr: *Alexander Schields* an account of the Aſſemblies having Recommended the deſire of his Letter. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, of a Petition be the Pariſh of *Bothwell*, for continuing Mr. *Alexander Orr* in that Pariſh. *Ib.*

Acts approving ſome Synod Books. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh* of a Proces againſt Mr. *George Mayr*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh* of ſome Proceſſes, againſt Mr. *John Hepburn*. *Ib.*

Act in favours of Mr *John Bowis*. *Ib.*

Act Ratifying the Sentence of Depoſition paſt by the Presbytry of *Peebles* &c. Againſt Mr. *George Forbes* at *Traquair*, and Declaring Mr. *Robert Tait* Legal Miniſter thereat. Seſſ. 15

Act in favours of Mr *Charles Lindſay* *Ib.*

Act continuing Mr. *George Campbel* in the *Miniſtry* and Profeſſion of Divinity at *Edinburgh*, with a Recommendation in his favours thereanent. Seſſ 16.

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, anent ſome Grievvances. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, anent *Mr. William Linaſay*'s Intruding upon the Kirk at *Alva* *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, anent a *National Faſt*. *Ib.*

Re-

Reference to the Committee for the *North*, of a Petition be Mr. *John Stewart* at *Inneraven*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Committee for the *North*, of a Petition for Mr *Patrick Innes* at *Bamff*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Committee for the *North*, of a Petition be Mr *Alexander Fordice* at *Raffurd*, *Ib.*

Reference to the Committee for the *North*, of a Petition for Mr. *John Chriſtiſon* at *Liſſe*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, of a Petition for Mr. *Gilbert Simpſon* at *Kingsbarns*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, of a Petition be Mr. *James Buchan*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Committee for the *North*, of a Petition be Mr. *George Anderſon* at *Tarves*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, of a Petition be Mr. *Patrick Lyon* at *Kinghorne*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, of a Petition be Mr. *William Crawfurd* at *Ladykirk*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, of a Petition be Mr. *Adam Peacock* at *Morebattle*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Committe for the *North*, for a Petition be Mr. *Alexander Jamieſon* at *Tyrie*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Committee for the *North*, anent the Sentence of the Presbytry of *Forreſs*, Tranſporting Mr. *William Mckay* from *Dornock* to *Cromdale* and *Inverallan*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, of a Petition be the Presbytry of St *Andrews*. *Ib.*

Act in favours of the Kirk-Seſſions of *Edinburgh* *Ib.*

Act in favours of the Presbytry of *Paiſly*. *Ib.*

Act in favours of of the Pariſh of *South-Leith* and Mr. *William Wiſhart*, declaring him Legal Miniſter thereof. *Ib.*

Act in favours of *Brunt Iſland* and Mr. *James Inglis*, declaring him Legal Miniſter thereof. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, to Receive the Report of theſe allowed to Conferr with Mr *William Vetch*. *Ib.*

Act Refuſing the Deſire of a Petition for the Pariſh of *Paiſly*, Craving that the Aſſembly might Re-conſider their Sentence Tranſporting Mr. *William Vetch* to *Drumfrees*, or otherways to Referr the ſame to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, of a Paper of *Grievances* preſented to the Presbytry of *Hamiltoun*, and by them to the Aſſembly. *Ib.*

Recommendation to the ſeveral Synods, Presbytries and Kirk-Seſſions, for ſome Charitable Supply to *Alexander Gordon* Merchant lately in *Poland*. *Ib.*

Committee for Reviſing and Printing the Acts of Aſſembly. *Ib.*

AD-

FINIS

ADVERTISEMENT.

The Fourteenth Act of this Assembly (Intituled, Act Appointing some Ministers for Supply of the North) having Remitted to the Commission of the General Assembly to direct these Ministers to what Synods in the North they should go (They being thereafter to be advised by the Ministers in these respective Synods to what particular Congregation they should apply themselves) It was thought fit for the better Information of all Concerned, That the Act of the Commission past thereanent should be hereto subjoined. The Tenor whereof follows.

Edinburgh, 18 April 1694. *Ante Meridiem.*

THE COMMISSIONERS appointed by the late General Assembly to meet at *Edinburgh*, Taking to Consideration, That the said Assembly by their Act dated the 16 of *April* Instant, Ordained those who were appointed for the first Quarter to go and Preach in the *North* To Repair to this Commission, and receive Directions, to go to such particular Synods in the *North* as the said Commission should Direct; Have therefore Appointed, and hereby Appoint these Ministers under written, To go to the respective places aftermentioned. And that betwixt and the first Sabbath of *June* next: *viz.* Mr. *Thomas Russel* and Mr. *James Haddow*, to the Town of *Aberdeen*. Mr. *John Murdoch* and Mr *William Somervel*, To *Angus* and *Mearns*. The Ministers from the Synod of *Perth*, to be Appointed by the said Synod, To supply *Ratray*. Mr. *George Guthry* and Mr. *Robert Livingstoun*, To the Shire of *Aberdeen*, which Two are to be directed as to the particular places, by the Ministers that are presently at *Aberdeen*, and by the Ministers of *Dundee*, Mr. *John Dysart*, Mr. *James Brisbane*, Mr. *Andrew Tait*, Mr. *John Glasgow*, Mr. *Andrew Rodgers* and Mr. *Duncan Campbel* (or any other for him having the *Irish* Tongue, whom the Presbytry of *Dumbartoun* shall Appoint) To *Murray*, M *John Frazer*, Mr. *Donald Campbel* and Mr. *Robert Colvil* To *Ross*, *Sutherland* and *Caithness*.

THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly,

OF THE

CHURCH

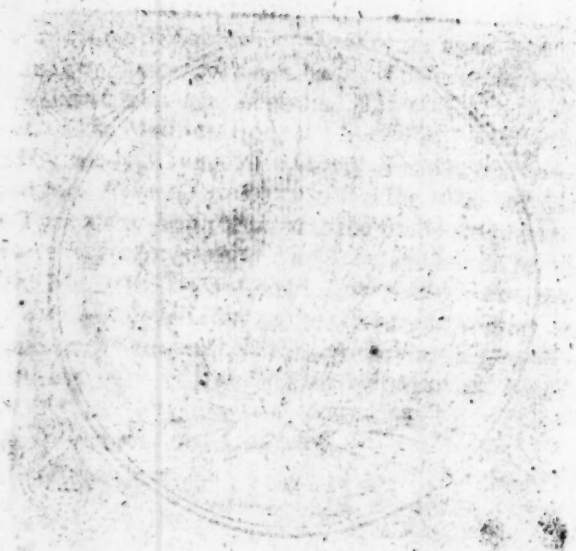
OF

SCOTLAND;

Conveened at *Edinburgh*, *December* 17*th*. 1695.

Collected and Extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof

EDINBURGH,
Printed by *George Mosman*, Printer to this CHURCH and Its ASSEMBLIES. M. DC. XCVI.



THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly,

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND;

Holden and begun at *Edinburgh*, the 17*th*. Day of *December* 1695, And ending the 4 of *January* 1696 Years.

I.

The Meeting of the General Assembly,

Edinburgh, 17*th December* 1695, Post Meridiem Sess. I.

THE which Day, after Sermon Preached by *Mr. John Law* one of the *Ministers* of *Edinburgh*, *Moderator* of the last Assembly, upon 1 *Corinth.* 4, 2. The General Assembly of the *Ministers* and Ruling Elders of this Church of *Scotland*, did conveen in the Assembly-House; where after Prayer by the said *Mr. John Law*, An Roll was taken up of the Commissioners Delegated by the several Presbytries, Burghs Royal, and Univerfities for holding this Assembly.

II.

Act, continuing Mr. *John Law* Moderator *till Friday next.*

Eadem Seſſione.

THE ſaid day, The General Aſſembly Conſidering that many of their *M*embers had not yet come to this Town, Did therefore put it to the Vote. Whether to chuſe a new *M*oderator preſently, or continue *Mr. John Law M*oderator till *Friday* next; And it carried *nemine contradicente.*' That the ſaid Mr. *John Law* ſhould be continued Moderator till *Friday* next.

III.

Act appointing Mr. John Bannatyne *to officiat as Clerk till Friday next.*

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly Conſidering that through the Deceaſe of *Mr. Robert Park* Advocat, Their Clerks place is now become Vacant. Therefore they by an Unanimous Vote made choiſe of *Mr. John Bannatyne* Miniſter of the Goſpel at *Lanerk*, and one of their own Number to Officiat as Clerk until *Friday* next.

IV.

Appointment of a Dyet to be keeped by the Aſſembly for Prayer.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly Appoints to *M*orrow being *Wednesday* betwixt *Nine* and *Twelve* a Clock in the Forenoon, to be ſet apart by the *M*embers of this Aſſembly for Publick Prayer to the Almighty God for His Countenanceing and *D*irecting this Aſſembly in the *M*atters

Matters that ſhall come before them, and Recommends to all the ſaids *Members* to meet in the Aſſembly-houſe timeouſly for that effect.

V.

Appointment of another Dyet for Prayer.

Edinburgh 18. *December* 1695. *ante Merid.* Seſſ. 2.

THE General Aſſembly being met, This Dyet was ſpent in *Prayer*, accord ng to the Appointment made Yeſterday thereanent, And further it was agreed to, That the *Members* of this Aſſembly ſhould meet again to morrow for publick *Prayer*, and accordingly it was Recommended to all the Members to meet in the Aſſembly-houſe to morrow immediatly after Sermon for the effect foreſaid.

VI.

A Dyet ſpent in Prayer.

Edinburgh 19 *Decemb.* 1695. *ante merid.* Seſſ. 3.

THE General Aſſembly being met, This Diet was ſpent in Prayer according to the Appointment made Yeſterday thereanent, and Adjourned till to morrow at Ten a Clock in the Forenoon.

The Recording of His Majeſtie's Commiſſion to John Lord Carmichael, for Repreſenting His Majeſty in this General Aſſembly, with the Commiſſioner and Moderators Speeches.

Edinburgh 20 of *December* 1695. *ante meridiem*, Seſſ. 4.

THIS Day, The General Aſſembly of this National Church being met, and *Mr. Patrick Simſon* choſen *Moderator*, and *Mr. John Bannatyne* Clerk, There was produced to them by a Noble Lord, *John* Lord *Carmichael*, His *Majeſties Commiſſion* under the Great Seal of the

Kingdom of *Scotland*, Nominating and Appointing him to be His Majesties High Commissioner and Representative in this National Assembly, which Commission was publickly Read with all due Honour and *Respect*, and the General Assembly Appointed and hereby Appoints the said Commission to be Registrated in the Records of the General Assembly, therein to remain, *Ad futuram rei memoriam*. The *Tenor* whereof follows.

"*GVLIELMVS* Dei Gratia, Magnæ *Britanniæ*, *Fran-*
"*ciæ* & *Hiberniæ* Rex, Fideique Defensor: Omnibus probis
" Hominibus, ad quos præsentes Literæ Nostræ pervenerint,
"*Salutem*. Quandoquidem statuimus Conventum Generalem
" Ecclesiæ, Antiqui nostri Regni *Scotiæ*, ad *Decimum septi-*
"*mum* diem Mensis *Decembris* Instantis continuari, Nosque
" autem abunde Cupidi & Judicantes etiam necessarium esse,
" propter commodum dictæ Ecclesiæ, ut *Generalis Conventus*
"antedictus Die statuto debite observetur, Sed rebus magni
" momenti alio vocantibus, dicto Conventui interesse Nequi-
" mus, cumque Testimoniis perplurimis & probatis, abunde
" nobis Satisfactum sit, & de præclaris Animi doribus & fide
" Eximia, Fidelissimi & Dilectissimi, Nostri Consiliarii *Jo-*
"*annis Domini Carmichael* Quod que ad munera summi Offi-
" cii inframentionati rite exercenda & obeunda in finem supra
" expressum usquequaque est idoneus; Noveritis igitur nos
" feciſse & Constituisse, sicuti per has nostras patentes Literas
" Facimus & Constituimus eundem *Joannem Dominum*
" *Carmichael* Supremum Nostrum Commissionarium, Quoad
" effectum infra expressum. Damus pariter & concedimus
" illi, Sacram Nostram personam & Authoritatem Nostram
" Regalem Repræsentandi, præsentiam Nostram supplendi,
" Locumque Nostrum in dicto subsequenti Generali Conven-
" tu, Tanquam Commissionario Nostro, in hunc effectum
" specialiter constituto, Tenendi, Omniaque alia ad Imperi-
" um & Munus Commissionarii, pro Generali Ecclesiæ Con-
" ventu peragendi. Tam plene, adeoque libere in quovis Re-
" spectu, quam Quilibet alius ejusdem Supremi Muneris &
" Characteris fecerat, seu quovis tempore Retroacto facere po-
" terat, atque sicuti Nos ipsi personaliter præsentes facere po-
" terimus, pleniſſimam & ampliſſimam Nostram potestatem
" & Commissionem. *Quæquidem* omnia & singula, a dicto
"*Joanne Domino Carmichael*, in hac Nostra Commissione pro-
" sequenda, legitime facienda, Nos firmiter approbamus, Ra-
" ta habemus & habituri sumus. Omnibus & singulis Insuper
" antedicti Conventus & Ecclesiæ Pastoribus & Presbyteris,&
" Cæteris quibuscunque hujus Regni subditis, cujuscunque
" Qualitatis & Conditionis, Ut dictum *Joannem Dominum Car-*
" *michael*

" *michael*, Tanquam Supremum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium,
" Quoad effectum & Modum ſupra mentionatum, Agnoſcant,
" Revereantur & dicto ipſius Audientes ſe præbeant, ſtricte
" *M*andamus & Imperamus. Ac denique hanc Noſtram Com-
" miſſionem a die quo magnum hujus Regni Noſtri Sigillum
" præſentibus eſt appenſum, ac deinceps hac ſequenti Seſſione
" dicti Generalis Conventus & uſque dum a Nobis revocabi-
" tur in vigore continuare Declaravimus, & per præſentes De-
" claramus. In cujus Rei Teſtimonium, Præſentibus *M*ag-
" num Sigillum Noſtrum Appendi Præcepimus. Apud Au-
" lam Noſtram de *Kenſingtoun*, *Decimo Tertio* die menſis De-
" *cembris*, Anno Domini, Milleſimo Sexcenteſimo Nonogeſi-
" mo quinto, Annoque *R*egni Noſtri Septimo.

Per Signaturam Manu S. D. N. *Supraſignatam*,

Locus Sigilli Appenſi

IN DORSO.

Written to the Great Seal, and Regiſtrat the 19 *day of* December 1695. Ch. Ker.

Sealed at Edinburgh, *the* 19 *day of* Decemb. 1695. Jo. Dickſon

---

AFter Reading of which Commiſſion, Mr. *Patrick Simſon* Moderator, did in the Aſſemblies Name Repreſent to His Grace, how great a *M*ercy it was to this Church and Kingdom, That His *M*ajeſty had Called and Countenanced this National Aſſembly with His Authority, and Honoured it with a *R*epreſentative of His Royal Perſon, who by His former prudent Conduct in two former General Aſſemblies, hath rendred Himſelf moſt Acceptable to this Aſſembly, to *R*epreſent His Majeſty therein.

Whereupon His Grace, His Majeſties High Commiſſioner delivered Himſelf as follows. Right *R*everend and You the *R*emanent Members of this Aſſembly; You are now met in this Aſſembly conform to the Kings Appointment. And His Majeſty having Honoured me to be His Commiſſioner, I am warranted to give you all Aſſurance of His Majeſties Reſolution to Maintain *P*resbyterian Government in this Church, and to evidence His Fatherly Care for its welfare: His Majeſty Expects, That at this Time you will chiefly make it Your Work to Regulate Matters of Order and Diſcipline amongſt your

ſelves. It is the Kings great Regrate, that there are ſo many Churches Vacant within this Kingdom, which obviouſly ſuggeſts, that it would be your beſt work, as indeed it would be moſt acceptable to His Majeſty, that you ſhould apply your ſelves principally to the Reſtoring the Goſpel to ſuch Churches, and in doing of this, you may be very aſſured of His Majeſties Countenance and Authority. It is alſo evidently convenient, and likeways expected, That if Good Men apply to you to be aſſumed, you will *Receive* their Applications with all Charity and Moderation.

I hope the good Spirit of God ſhall direct you in theſe matters to the beſt Advantage, only I recommend to you to mind your Buſineſs cloſly without Heats, and unneceſſary Contentions, and to make all the *Diſpatch* you can, to bring this Aſſembly to an happy Iſſue, both for the Churches good, and His Majeſties Satisfaction.

VIII.

Act anent Commiſſions to the General Aſſembly

Edinburgh, 23 of *December* 1695. *Poſt Meridiem.* Seſſ. 5.

THE General Aſſembly hereby *Recommends* it to the ſeveral Presbytries of this National Church to keep an uniform method, as near as may be, in granting Commiſſions to the *Members* of the General Aſſembly, and not to Inſert particular Inſtructions in their Commiſſions, and for the better attaining the end foreſaid. The General Aſſembly gives the Form after inſert for a Directory

At the day of Years.
The which day the Presbytry of did and hereby do Nominate and appoint *Mr.* Miniſter at *Mr.* Miniſter at and *Ruling Elders*, Their Commiſſioners to the next General Aſſembly of this Church, Indited to meet at the day of next to come, or when or where it ſhall happen to ſit; willing them to *Repair* thereto, and to attend all the Diets of the ſame, and there to Conſult, Vote and Determine in all *Matters* that come before them, to the Glory of God, and the good of His Church: *According to the Word of God, the Confeſſion of Faith, and agreable to the Conſtitutions of this Church*, as they will be Anſwerable: And that they *Report* their Diligence therein at their return therefrom. *Extracted by Me*

IX. *Act*

IX.

Act anent Traffiquing Priests, and the Education of Young Noble-men, Gentlemen and others Childrenof Popish Parents.

Edinburgh 24 *December* 1695. *Post meridiem.* Sess. 6.

THE General Assembly Recommends to all Provincial Synods, Presbytries and Kirk-Sessions within this National Church, to take particular notice of *Traffiquing Papists*, and appoints Lists to be taken up of their Names, and given to the Privy Council, with an Address for Executing the Laws against them: And the General Assembly Recommends to Presbytries to advert to the Education of Young Noble-men, Gentle-men and others Children of Popish Parents and to put the 7*th* Act of the General Assembly 1690 thereanent in Execution.

X.

Act anent Quakers.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly of this National Church for prevention of the grouth of these abominable Heresies of the *Quakers*, do Recommend to all Provincial Synods, Presbytries, Ministers, and Kirk Sessions to use all proper means for Reclaiming them, and in case of their Obstinacy to proceed against them with the Censures of the Church, and specially against the Ring-Leaders, that are Traffiquers for seducing of others.

XI.

An Overture and Act anent Novations.

Edinburgh 25 *December* 1695 *Post Meridiem* Sess. 7

THE General Assembly of this National Church having heard an Overture brought in from the *Committee for Overtures*, That no *New* Acts relating to the Doctrine, Worship or Government of this Church be made until they be first transmitted to the several Presbytries of this National

Church: Which being considered, the General Assembly Recommends it to the Members of this Assembly to discourse upon the said Overture with their respective Presbytries, That the next General Assembly may be the more ripe to determine anent the conveniency thereof: And in the mean time the General Assembly hereby Revives the Acts of the former Assemblies made thereanent, and particularly the 13 Act of the Assembly 1639, and 14 Act of the Assembly 1641.

XII.

Act approving Overtures anent a more expedite and certain way of planting the North, with fixed Ministers.

Edinburgh, the last of *December* 1695. *Post Meridiem* Sess. 12.

THE General Assembly of this National Church having considered the Overtures underwritten, which were at two several Dyets publickly Read over in open Assembly and Examined, and any Members that desired were allowed to have doubles thereof, to the Effect they might be peruſed by them, and Intimation was made to give in their Objections if they had any, to a Committee appointed for that end and last of all upon the Day and Date hereof the saids Overtures were again a third time publickly Read in presence of the General Assembly, as also the Additional Overtures annexed thereto, the Tenor of both which follows.

1. "That for the more Expedite planting of Ministers on "the *North side* of the Water of *Tay*, The Assembly Nomi- "nate a Commission of some of the most Experienced Minis- "ters and Elders to meet at *Edinburgh*, and there to sit "Monthly from time to time, until there shall be settled on the "said *North side* of *Tay* Twenty two Ministers of some con- "siderable standing and Experience, now belonging to the "Presbytries on the south side of the said Water.

2. "That when any of the Parochins of the said North "shall call any of the following Ministers, they may with- "out sending any Commissioner to prosecute the same, send "the said Call approven and concurred with by the Presby- "try of the Bounds, to the Moderator of the said Commis- "sion, who for greater Expedition shall cause double the "Call and attest the Copy, and send the same with the Rea- "sons of the desired Transportation in a Letter to the Mode- "rator of that Presbytry, to whom the Ministers called doth "belong.

"3. That

3. "That the Moderator of the said *Presbytry*, upon the "Receipt of the said Letter shall be obliged to Transmitt the "said Call with the Reasons thereof to the Minister called, "and shall cause summond the said Minister, and the Paroch "he belongs to, the next Sabbath in the Ordinary Way to ap- "pear before the said *Presbytry*, and Answer the Call and "Reasons, and if the ordinary time of the meeting of the said "Presbytry shall fall not to be within Eleven Days, then the "Moderator shall call a *Presbytry prore nata*, against that time.

4. That the *Presbytry* at their said Meeting, shall with- out any delay, consider and determine the process of the said Call, thus brought before them, and if they shall not at the same time Transport the Minister called to the said Paroch he is called unto, they be obliged to transmitt the said Call, Rea- sons, and Answers and Presbytries Determination to the said Commission, against the first ensueing diet thereof: Providing there interveen Ten Days betwixt and the said diet, and shall Summond the said Minister called, and his paroch, to ap- pear before the said Commission, to answer finally thereunto.

5. That the said Commission at *Edinburgh*, do thereupon without any delay, consider and determine the said Process, and that whether the said Minister, and his Paroch thus Summoned do appear or not.

6. That when the said Commission, or Presbytry pass a Sentence of Transportation, it shall be obeyed by the Mini- ster Transported, against the time Limited in the Act of Tran- sportation, under the pain of Suspension, which he is to lye under, until he obey, and which censure the Assembly doth require the said Commission to inflict upon him who doth disobey.

7. That there be Forty four Ministers of some considerable Experience, fit to be Transported to the North, nominate by this Assembly, in manner following, of which the one half shall upon Calls as above, be Transported by Vertue of this Act.

8. That there may be some suteable proportioning of the said Transportations, It's Overtured, that where a *Presby- try* on the South side of *Tay*, is two third Parts planted with fixed Ministers and hath eight fixed *Ministers* therein; That two of these eight (and proportionally where there are Six- teen, or Twenty four) be nominate by the Assembly mak- ing up in all the above Number of Fourty four *Ministers*.

9. That out of these Presbytries who furnish Two, one of the said Two shall be Transported, and but one; and so proportionally where the Presbytry furnishes more, Making up of all Twenty Two to be *Actually* Transported.

10. That the forsaid Number of Fourty four, out of which only Twenty two are to be Transported, shall be furnished by the following Presbytries, *viz.* By the Presbytry of *Chirnside* Two, one of which is to be actually Transported; By the Presbytry of *Ersltoun* Two, one of which is to be actually Transported; By the Presbytry of *Jedburgh* Two, By *Melross* or *Selkrig* Two, by *Dunbar* Two, By *Dalkeith* none, having already given one; By *Linlithgow* Two, one of which is to be Transported; By *Peebles* Two, one of which is to be Transported; By *Biggar* Two, one of which is to be Transported; By *Dumfreis* Two, one of which is to be Transported; By *Lochmaben* Two, one of which is to be Transported; By *Kirkcudbright* Two, one of which is to be Transported, having given one already; By *Air* Two, one of which is to be Transported, having given one already; By *Irvin* Two, one of which is to be Transported, having given one already; By *Hamilton* Two, one of which is to be Transported; By *Lanerk* Two, one of which is to be Transported; By *Glasgow* Two, one of which is to be Transported, having given one already; By *Paisley* Two, one of which is to be Transported; By *Dumbarton* Two, one of which is to be Transported; By *Cowpar* Two, one of which is to be Transported; By *Kirkaldy* Two, one of which is to be Transported; By *Dumfermling* Two, one of which is to be Transported: All which make up the above-named Number, out of which the half is to be Transported to the *North* after the way and manner above-expresst.

11. That of these Fourty four out of the Presbytries above-named, The half of them be apointed to go North by way of Mission to the several Provinces they shall be alloted unto, so as to be there against the *First* Sabbath of *March* next, and to stay there *Three Moneths*, Exercising their Ministry according to the Appointment of the Presbytries unto which they come; And the other half to go North after the same manner, and to stay the same length of time, against the *First* Sabbath of *June* next, and that these of them who have not been in the North already go first.

12. That the Brethren from the North do meet among themselves and proportion these Twenty two among the several Provinces of *Angus* and *Merns* (comprehending *Rattray* Parish) *Aberdeen*, *Murray* and *Caithness*, and that they concert amongst themselves, out of which of the above-written Presbytries they will have their *Quota's*, and that they do this before the Nomination of the persons to be Transported.

13. That beside these Fourty four, There be some Ministers and Expectants out of *Argyl-Shire* Nominate who being Preachers

ers of the *Highland Language* are to be allotted to ſupply *Roſs*, *Sutherland*, *Caithneſs*, and the Town of *Inverneſs*.

14. It is alſo Overtured, That ſuch as have been appointed by the Judicatories of this Church ſince the laſt General Aſſembly for the Supply of the North, and have not obeyed their Appointments, be not only Cenſured for their Diſobedience, but their Appointments renewed and they ordained to go with the firſt Supplies.

15. That the General Aſſembly declare, That theſe *Paroches* thus to be vacated by Tranſportation, when they ſhall after come to be ſettled with another Miniſter, That the ſaid Miniſter ſhall be declared, not Tranſportable from that Paroch without their Conſent, and unleſs he have unſupportable Grievances therein.

16. That the Aſſembly Name Two or Three out of each Synod on the *South* ſide of *Tay*, to meet with the Brethren of the North, to Concert the Names of the above Fourty four Miniſters, and to preſent the ſame to the Aſſembly to be by them Nominated and Appointed.

Additional Overtures for a more Expedite planting the North.

1. IT is Overtured that the Presbytry of *Irvine* be exempted from any being Nominate to be Tranſported, but not excuſed from quarterly Supplies.

2. That beſide the Brother of the *Presbytry* of *Dalkeith*, who is Tranſported already, they ſend one to the North in Miſſion.

3. That the Presbytry of *Dumfreis*, becauſe of the particular Circumſtances they are in, have the *Presbytries* of *Penpont* and *Midlebee* to help them, and that two fit perſons be named out of theſe *Presbytries*, and not above one out of any one *Presbytry* of the Three.

4. That in the Nomination of the Commiſſion One at leaſt out of every *Presbytry* be Named, who ſend Two of the Fourty four abovementioned.

5. That the Suſpenſion to be inflicted in the caſe above expreſt be taken off, by the Synod of the Bounds, or next Aſſembly, if they find inſuperable difficulties ariſing in the Miniſter Tranſported his obeying the Sentence: And providing they immediatly Nominate another fit perſon who ſhall effectually ſupply the others room.

6. That out of St. *Andrews* Presbytry; Two be Named and added to the Number.

7. That all theſe Overtures are condeſcended to, only for the preſent exigent, and that this ſhall be no *Precedent* for aftertimes, but in caſe there be any Tranſportations purſued afterward, that they ſhall proceed in the ordinary courſe and no otherways?

All theſe abovewritten Overtures both *Principal* and *Additional* being maturely conſidered, The General Aſſembly of this National Church by an Unanimous Vote did, and hereby do approve the ſame, and *Recommends* and *Appoints* according thereto in all points.

XIII.

Act anent Teſtimonials.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly Appoints all Probationers that Applies to *Presbytries* to bring not only ſufficient Teſtimonials, but alſo a Letter from a known perſon to the Presbytry, and that the Presbytry write to them from whom the Teſtimonials comes (if need be) to know the Verity thereof.

XIV.

Act anent the Supply of Roſs, Sutherland *and* Caithneſs.

Edinburgh 3 *January* 1696. *Ante Meridiem* Seſſ. 16.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, taking to their ſerious Conſideration, the many Vacant Churches, and great Deſolations that are in the Bounds of *Roſs*, *Sutherland* and *Caithneſs*, Do therefore appoint, that there be ſent in Miſſion to the ſaids Bounds of *Sutherland Roſs*, and *Caithneſs*, the Miniſters and *Probationers* aftermentioned, in manner and to the effect under-expreſt. *Viz.* Mr. *Robert Durcanſon* Miniſter from the Provincial Synod of *Argyle*, who is declared already Tranſportable, and upon a Call to

be

be Tranſported, in caſe the Commiſſion ſhall ſee cauſe, to whom that matter is hereby Referred; As alſo, that ſuch as have the *Iriſh* Language in Lowland-Congregations, be ſent in Miſſion, and upon Calls tranſported by the Commiſſion, and that in the ſame way that other Miniſters are appointed to be Tranſported to the *North*; And farder, that Mrs. *Thomas* and *Hector Frasers* Probationers, (who were formerly appointed) go there, and Mr. *Hugh Duff* be ſent to that Preſbytry, to paſs his Tryals, in order to be ſettled there, and ſuch other Probationers, that have the *Iriſh* Language, as the Synod of *Argyle* can ſpare.

XV.

Act nominating and appointing Miniſters to go North, *by way of Miſſion.*

Edinburgh 3 *January* 1696. *Poſt Meridiem* Seſſ. 17.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, taking to their Conſideration, That by their Act, dated the laſt day of *December* laſt, they have laid down a way for a more expedite Planting of the Vacant Churches, on the *North-ſide* of *Tay*, and for that end, appointed the Number of fourty four Miniſters, to be ſent *North* by way of Miſſion, and now having according to the ſaid Act, concerted the Names of thoſe to be ſent to the *North*, Do therefore Nominate and Appoint the Miniſters from the ſeveral Presbytries afternamed, to repair to their reſpective Poſts in the *North*, in manner, at the times, and according to the proportions underwritten, *viz.* To the Province of *Angus* and *Merns*, (Including *Rattray* Pariſh,) From the Presbytry of *Erſtoun*, Mr. *William Arrat* Miniſter of the Goſpel at *Jinglekirk*, and Mr. *William Abercromby* at Lauder; From the Presbytry of *Jedburgh*, Mr. *John Cranſton* at Creelling, and Mr. *James Borland* at Bedrule; from the Presbytry of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *Thomas Wilkie* at Edinburgh, the other to be appointed by the Presbytry thereof; From the Presbytry of *Lanerk*, Mr. *Patrick Eaſſon* at Wiſtoun, and Mr. *John Bryce* at Crawfurdjohn. To the Province of *Aberdeen*, From the Presbytry of *Chirnſide*, Mr. *James Ramſay* at Eyemouth, and Mr. *Andrew Guthrie* at Edrum; From the Presbytry of *Melroſs* or

Selkrig, Mr. *Hugh Craig* at Gallaſheels, and Mr. *Robert Edgar* at Maxtine; From the Presbytry of *Dunbar*, Mr. *Andrew Brown* at Spott, and Mr *John Currie* at Oldhamſtocks; From the Presbytry of *Peebles*, Mr. *Robert Tait* at Traquair, and Mr. *James Thomſon* at Tweedmure; From the Presbytry of *Biggar*, Mr. *James Brown* at Walſtoun, and Mr. *John Sandilands* at Dolphingtoun; from the Preſbytry of *Air*, Mr. *Thomas Kennedy* at Ballintrea, and Mr. *Andrew Rodger* at Galſtoun; From the Presbytry of *Paiſley*, Mr. *James Stirling* at Kilbarchan, and Mr. *John Paiſley* at Lochennoch; From the Presbytry of *Kirkaldy*, Mr. *Martine Shanks* at Auchtertoul, and Mr. *James Inglis* at Burntiſland From the Presbytry of *Lockmaben*, Mr. *William Steel* at Lochmaben, and Mr. *Hugh Mchendry* at Daltoun; From the Presbytry of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr. *Samuel Spalding* at Partane, and Mr. *John Murdoch* at Corſemichael. To the Province of *Murray*, From the Presbytry of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *John Gilchriſt* at South Leith, the other to be nominate and appointed by the Presbytry; From the Presbytry of *Hamilton*, Mr. *James Hog* at Dalſerf, and Mr. *Joſeph Drew* at New Monkland; From the Presbytry of *Dumbarton*, Mr. *David Fleckfied* at Balphorn, and Mr. *John Ritchie* at Kilpatrick, From the Presbytry of *Coupar*, Mr. *Andrew Young* at Munzie, and Mr. *William Selkrig* at Falkland; From the Presbytry of St. *Andrews*, Mr. *George Gordon* at Leuquhars, and Mr. *Thomas Black* at Enſtruther-weſter; From the Presbytries of *Dumfreis*, *Midlebee* and *Penpont*, Mr. *John Lawry* at Wachop, and Mr. *John Paiſley* at Mortoun. To the Province of *Caithneſs*, From the Presbytry of *Linlithgow* Mr. *Donald Campbel* at Queensferry, and Mr. *John Bonnar* at Torphichan; From the Presbytry of *Dumfermling*, Mr. *William Innes* at Carnock, and Mr. *Alexander Steedman* at Beeth. The General Aſſembly hereby appoints the Brethren, who are firſt named in each Presbytrie, to go ſo, as to be there the firſt Sabbath of *March*, and the laſt named in each Presbytry, againſt the firſt Sabbath of *June* next: As alſo, the General Aſſembly appoints, that theſe of the ſaid Brethren firſt named, who are actually preſent at their reſpective Poſts in the North, ſtay ſometime longer, and that to ſtand for their Miſſion, by vertue of this Act.

XVI.

Act approving the Proceedings of the Commiſſions of the General Aſſemblies, 1690, and 1694.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, having heard the Report of a Committee of their own Number, appointed to Reviſe, Conſider and Examine the *Actings* and *Proceedings* of the *Commiſſion for Viſitations on the North ſide of Tay*, appointed by the *General Aſſembly* 1690, beginning the 14 Day of *November* 1690, and ending the 30 of *October* 1691 years, incluſive of both Days; As alſo, the Actings and Proceedings of the *Commiſſioners* appointed by the *General Aſſembly* 1694, to meet at *Edinburgh*, beginning the 18 *Aprile* 1694. and ending the 5 day of *Aprile* 1695 incluſive of both Days, and after ſerious and mature Conſideration thereof, Finding that the whole Acts, Proceedings, and Concluſions of the ſaid Commiſſioners, contained in the Regiſter thereof, do evidence much Wiſdom, Diligence, Vigilancy, and commendable Zeal; and that the ſaid Commiſſioners have orderly and formarly proceeded in every thing according to their Commiſſions and Inſtructions; Therefore, this General Aſſembly did, and hereby do unanimouſly Ratify and Approve the ſaids whole Acts, Proceedings and Concluſions, of the ſaids Commiſſioners appointed by the ſaids General Aſſemblies 1690, and 1694 Years.

XVII.

Act approving the Proceedings of the Committee for the North, *appointed by the General Aſſembly* 1694.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, having heard the Report of a Committee, of their own Number, appointed to Reviſe, Conſider and Examine the *Actings* and *Proceedings* of the *Committee for the North*, ap-

pointed by the General Aſſembly, held at *Edinburgh* in the year 1694, beginning the 14 day of *June*, and ending the 29 day of *Auguſt* next thereafter; and after ſerious and mature conſideration thereof, finding that the whole Acts, Proceedings and Concluſions of the ſaid Committee, contained in the Regiſter thereof, ſubſcribed by Mr. *William Mackie* Clerk thereto, do evidence much Wiſdom, Prudence, Diligence, Vigilancy and commendable Zeal, and that the ſaid Committee hath orderly and formally proceeded in every thing according to their Commiſſion, and Inſtructions: Therefore, This General Aſſembly, by an unanimous Vote, did, and hereby do Ratify and Approve the ſaids whole Acts, Proceedings and Concluſions of the ſaid Committee, appointed for the *North*, contained in the ſaid Regiſter.

XVIII.

Act Recommending to Miniſters to Preach Catethetical Doctrine.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, Conſidering how neceſſary and edifying it is, That the People be well acquainted with the Foundamental Principles of the Chriſtian Religion, Do therefore Recommend to the care of Miniſters, that beſide their Ordinary Work of Catechiſing, they alſo preach Catechetical Doctrine, at ſuch times, and in ſuch manner, as they ſhall find moſt conducive for the Edification of their Flocks.

XIX.

Act anent Recommentations for Charity.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly Appoints that no Miniſter, Kirk Seſſions or Elders give Recommendations for Charity to any without the Bounds of their own Parochins, nor Preſbytries without the bounds of their Presbytries, nor Provincial

cial Synods without their bounds, and that any Recommendations so to be given within their Respective bounds shall be for a definite time.

XX.

Commission of the General Assembly for some Commissioners to meet at Edinburgh.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly of this National Church Considering the many Vacant Churches on the North side of *Tay*, and having laid down a way for a more Expedite planting of Ministers therein, doth therefore by these *Presents* Nominate and Appoint Mrs. *John Dysert* Minister of the Gospel at Coldingham, *William Jack* at Kelso, *John Vetch* at Westruther, *Gabriel Semple* at Jedburgh, *Robert Wilson* at Melrose, *John Forrest* at Linton, *George Andrew* at *Prestonpans*, *Patrick Cuming* at Ormiston, *John Law* at Edinburgh, *David Williamson* at West-Kirk, *George Barclay* at Uphall, *William Russel* at Stobo, *Robert Livingston* at Libertoun, *William Vetch* at Drumfrees, *Thomas Sheilds* at Sanquhar, *George Mulligine* at Moffat, *James Armstrang* at Cannaby, *Andrew Cameron* at Kircudbright, *James Gilchrist* at Kirkmichael, *Hugh Thomson* at Kilmaures, *George Clelland* at Shotts, *John Bannatyne* at Lanerk, *Patrick Simson* at Renfrew, *John Hardy* at Dumbartan, *Daniel Campbel* at Kilmichael, *John Darroch* at Craigneis, *Allexander Douglass* at Logy, *George Hamilton* at St. Andrews, *Edward Jamison* at Monymeal, *Archibald Riddel* at Weems, *Allan Logan* at Torryburn, *James Kirtoun* at Edinburgh, *George Meldrum* there, *David Blair* there, *Gilbert Rule* there, *Thomas Witkie* at Cannongate, *William Crichton* at Edinburgh, *William Dunlop* Principal of the University at Glasgow, *Thomas Millar* at Kirkliston, and *William Moncrieff* at Largo, *Richard Houison* at Musselburgh, *William Trail* at Borthwick, *William Burnet* at Calder, *Matthew Selkrig* at Crichton, *Alexander Dalgleish* at Abercorn, and *John Moncrieff* at Edinburgh, Ministers. With *George* Earl of Melvil Lord *Privy-Seal*, *William* Earl of Crawfurd, *George* Earl of Sutherland, *Patrick* Lord Polwarth, Sir *James Stewart* His Majesties Advocat, *Adam Cockburn* of Ormiston Lord Justice Clerk, Sir *Alexander Swinton* of Mersington,

Sir *Colin Campbel* of Aberuchle, Sir *David Home* of Croſſrig, and Sir *John Hamilton* of Halcraig, Four of the Senators of the Colledge of Juſtice, Sir *Robert Cheiſly* Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, Sir *James Ogilvy* of that Ilk, His *Majeſties* Solli-citor, *Mr. Francis Montgomery* of Giffan, Lieutenant Collonel *John Erskine*, *William Baillie* of Lamingtoun, Sir *Thomas Stewart* of *Kirkfield*, Sir *Thomas Burnet* His Majeſties Phyſi-cian, Sir *John Clerk* of Pennycook, Sir *Archibald Mutre* of Thorntoun, Mr. *Archibald Dickſon* of Tourelands, *Walter Stewart* of Pardovane, *James Mclurg* late Dean of Gild of Edin-burgh, and *Alexander Monteith* Deacon Conveener of Edin-burgh, Ruling Elders. To be Comiſſioners of the General Aſſembly to the Effect after expreſt, with full Power and Commiſſion to the ſaids Perſons, or their *Quorum* which is hereby Declared to be any Fifteen of the ſaids Commiſſioners, whereof Nine are always to be Miniſters, to meet and con-veen within the Aſſembly Houſe at *Edinburgh* upon the Firſt *Tueſday* after the Diſſolution of this General Aſſembly, at Ten a Clock in the Forenoon, and afterwards to meet the Firſt *Wedneſday* of every Moneth, and oftner as they ſhall ſee need-ful, during the Continuance of this Commiſſion; And the General Aſſembly Requires all the Members of this Commiſ-ſion to attend punctually the firſt Meeting thereof, and all the Quarterly Meetings thereafter, and which Commiſſio-ners at their firſt and quarterly Meetings, are to take to their conſideration the particular Affairs Recommended to them by the General Aſſembly, and the Monethly and Quarterly Meetings to conſider the Tranſportations of the Twenty two Miniſters from the South to the North, with Power alſo to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chuſe their own Moderator and Clerk. And ſicklike the General Aſſembly fully Impowers and Authorizes the ſaids Commiſſioners and their *Quorum* foreſaid, to Conſider, Cognoſce, and finally determine as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, in all References, Appeals and other matters that have been or ſhall be particularly Remitted to them for that Effect by any Act or Order of this Aſſembly, all which are holden as herein expreſt; And finally to proceed and cognoſce in every thing contained in, and conform to the Overtures and Inſtructions thereanent, approven by this General Aſſembly upon the laſt day of *December* laſt, Entitu-led, *Act approving Overtures anent a more expedite and certain way for planting the North with fixed Miniſters*, as fully and freely as if the ſame were in theſe preſents at full length inſert and ſet down. This Commiſſion is alſo to correſpond with the State for appointing Faſts and Thankſgivings as occaſion falls out, and to ſpecify the Cauſes thereof. Likeas the Ge-

neral

General Assembly hereby prohibite the saids Commissioners to meddle in any other matter than what is herein contained; Declaring also that in, and for all their Actings, the saids Commissioners shall be countable to, and Censurable by the next ensuing General Assembly of this Church: And lastly, The General Assembly hereby Declares, that this Commission shall continue till the meeting of the next General Assembly of this National Church.

XXI.

Act against the Atheistical Opinions of the Deists; and for establishing the Confession of Faith.

Edinburgh 4 *January* 1696. *Ante Meridiem* Sess. 18. *& ultima.*

THE General Assembly of this National Church taking to their serious Consideration, That in many places not a Few, of Atheistical Principles, who go under the Name of *Deists*, and for the time refuse the odious Character of *Atheist* maintain and disseminate pernicious Principles tending to *Scepticism* and *Atheism*; And that there is no small ground to fear the spreading of that Gangrene through this Land, where (as it is credibly informed) there are not wanting Active *Factors* for *Satan*, and his Kingdom of Darkness, who make it their great Business to overturn and Ridicule true and pure Religion, Do therefore seriously Recommend to, and enjoin the Ministers of the Gospel, where there is any apparent hazard of such a contagion, to warn and guard the Lords people against that Infernal course, and to detect the Abominableness of the Tenets of those Men, such as the denying of all Revealed Religion, the Grand Mysteries of the Gospel. *viz. The Doctrine of the Trinity, the Incarnation of the Messias, His Satisfaction to Justice, Salvation through Him, Justification by His imputed Righteousness to them who believe on His Name, the Resurrection of the Dead, and in a word the certainty and Authority of Scripture Revelation. As also their Asserting that there must be a Mathematical evidence for each purpose, before we can be obliged to Assent to any proposition thereanent, and that Natural Light is sufficient to Salvation.* It is also hereby required that Authors who

Treat well of thoſe Subjects be named to the people in order to peruſal; As likeways, That *Miniſters* deal ſeriouſly with the Seduced, and ſuch as are moſtly in Hazard to be perverted but eſpecially with Seducers and Impoſtors, that after ſufficient Inſtruction and Admonition, theſe be proceeded againſt as Scandalous, and Heretical Apoſtats uſe to be: And in General, the Aſſembly doth Diſcharge all Miniſters and other Members of this Church to *Publiſh* or Vent either by Speaking, Writing, Printing, Teaching or *Preaching* any Doctrine, Tenet or Opinion contrair unto, or Inconſiſtent with the *Confeſſion of Faith* of this Church, or any Article, Part or Propoſition therein: And appoints that all ſuch as contraveen this Act or any part thereof be Cenſured by the Church according to their Demerite.

XXII.

Act anent Students.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly taking to their Conſideration the Danger that ariſeth to the Church, and to the Souls of People, and the Contempt that may be brought on the Miniſtry, by Licenceing or Ordaining Young Men, without ſufficient Proof of their *Piety*, Gravity, Prudence, Sobriety, Orthodoxy, and Learning; Do therefore Appoint, that ſtrict Enquiry be made into all theſe Qualifications, of ſuch as are offered to Presbytries, in order to paſſing their Tryals, and that ſuch be rejected, who have not ſufficient Teſtimonials from Univerſities, of their good Behaviour and *Proficiency*; (and that the uſual School-Degrees be enquired after, though not made a neceſſary Qualification,) or at leaſt, ſhould not be found to have retrieved their loſt time at Schools, by After-diligence; As alſo, that ſuch as are eſteemed to be Vain, or Imprudent, or Proud, or Worldly-minded, by the generality of ſober intelligent Perſons, who converſe with them, ſhall be kept back from that Sacred Work.

In order to the Education of Young Men for the Miniſtry, It is recommended to Profeſſors in Divinity, that they require of ſuch Students as they employ in any Exercſes, Teſtimonials from Univerſities where they have Studied, and places where they have Lived.

The

The General Assembly, considering how necessary it is, that they who declare the Oracles of GOD to others, should themselves understand them in the Original Languages; Do require, that none be licenced to Preach, or ordained to the Ministry unless they give good Proof of their understanding the *Greek* and *Hebrew*; And the General Assembly recommendeth to all Candidats for the Ministry, to study also the other Oriental Languages, especially the *Chaldaick*, and *Syriack*, so far as they can.

It is also *R*ecommended, that they be tryed not only in the great Controversies of *R*eligion; But also, in the Controversies concerning the Government and Discipline of the Church.

XXIII.

Act anent Irregularities.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly do seriously Recommend it to all Synods and Presbytries, that they advert to the many Irregularities committed by vagrant unfixed Ministers, many of whom are lying under Ecclesiastick Censures, to the great Scandal and Hinderance of the Gospel, and tending to the Rending of Churches and Congregations; and prudently to proceed to take such course anent them, as the circumstances of the Case and Time requires. And appoints Presbytries, where any great Difficulty occurrs, in Cases of this nature, to consult their Synods, or the Commission appointed by this Assembly thereanent, before they proceed to any further Censure.

XXIV.

The General Assemblies LETTER TO HIS MAJESTY.

May it please Your Majesty,

AS We do Adore the Infinite Goodness and Mercy of GOD towards *Britain* and *Ireland*, in setting Your *MAJESTY* KING over Us, and in working by You so great Deliverance for Us; so We do from Our Hearts bless GOD, for mercifully Preserving Your Sacred Person, in midst of so many Dangers as You have been exposed to, by Sea and Land, and in granting such Success to Your Arms the last Campaign.

We do also, with humble Gratitude, acknowledge Your MAJESTIES many Royal Favours to this Church, and that not only under the shadow of Your Protection, and with the Countenance of Your MAJESTIE'S Authority and Laws. We may peaceably meet together in a *National Assembly*; But that Your MAJESTY hath Honoured Us, to send, as Your Commissioner, to represent Your MAJESTIE'S Royal PERSON among Us, the Lord *Carmichael*, a Person of known and approved Integrity and Loyalty to Your *MAJESTY*, and who hath been formerly, and still is most acceptable to Us all.

We do humbly beg, and confidently hope, Your MAJESTY, as appointed of GOD, to be the Nursing Father of his Church, will continue Your Royal Favour and Protection to Us, and Command the Vigorous Execution of Your Good Laws, against all Ungodliness and Unrighteousness, That Our *Land* may be throughly reformed from Vice, and purged of whatsoever doth offend.

We do sincerely profess, That next to Our Duty to GOD and Our LORD JESUS CHRIST, It is Our desire to approve Our selves dutiful Subjects to Your MAJESTY, And it shall be Our Endeavour, by Doctrine and Example, in Our several Capacities, to promote Your MAJESTIE'S Honour, and Service in the *LORD* among the *People*.

That

That Almighty GOD may Bleſs and long Preſerve Your Royal PERSON, Direct and Proſper Your Councils, and Government, Grant You always Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, Faithful and Victorious Armies and Navies, Give You the Hearts of Your Subjects, and Necks of Your Enemies, That Religion and Righteouſneſs may Flowriſh in Your Days, That You may be a Repairer of the Breaches, and Builder of the Houſe of GOD, and the Reſtorer of the Peace and Liberty of Europe, is, and ſhall be the inceſſant Prayer of

May it pleaſe your MAJESTY,

Your MAJESTIE'S moſt Faithful, moſt Obedient, and moſt Humble Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders, met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in Our Preſence, in Our Name, and at our Appointment,

By

Patrick Simſon, *Moderator.*

XXV.

Act continuing the Supplies of Preaching for the North, *conform to the Act of the* General Aſſembly 1694.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly Conſidering that the Vacancies on the *North* ſide of the *River of Tay* have increaſſed greatly ſince the ſitting of the laſt General Aſſembly; As alſo, the paucity of Miniſters in theſe parts, and having before them ſeveral Petitions from Noblemen, Gentlemen, Burgeſſes and others, living in theſe Parts, Craving that the Aſſembly would increaſe the Supply of theſe Bounds, and promiſing that they ſhould give all due encouragement to ſuch, as the Lord by this Aſſembly ſhall be pleaſed to direct to them. Therefore the General Aſſembly have ordained, and hereby Ordains the ordinary Supplies for the *North*, to continue till the next General Aſſembly, conform to the 14 Act of

the last General Assembly, Entituled, *Act appointing some Ministers for the Supply of the North*; And Recommends to Presbytries and Synods, that the same be made effectual, these named, and formerly appointed to be sent from the several Presbytries by way of Mission, being always sustained as a part of the said Supply: And lastly, the General Assembly exempts the Province of *Perth* in their present Circumstances, from all Supplies to the *North*.

XXVI.

Act Declaring the Appeals made to this Assembly, *from the Committee of the* Assembly 1694. *for the* North, *to be fallen from, and Null.*

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly considering, that they had upon the second Day of *January* instant, caused call these Persons, who had Appealed from, Protested against, and Declined the Committee appointed for the *North*, by the late General Assembly, to have Compeared before the last day of this Assembly, to prosecute their said Appeals and Protestations, and Answer for their Declinatures, with Certification if they compeared not, to prosecute the same before that time, their said Appeals and Protestations should be declared to be fallen from, Void, and Null. And now finding that the said Persons have not Compeared before this Assembly, for the Effect foresaid. Therefore the General Assembly, Do hereby Declare all the said Appeals to be deserted, fallen from, void and null, to all intents and purposes, because they have not been insisted in, before this Assembly.

XXVII.

Act and Sentence of Suspension against Mr. John Hepburn.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly of this National Church, Taking into their serious Consideration the References made to them concerning Mr. *John Hepburn* Minister, and having often caused

cauſed call the ſaid Mr. *John* to have compeared before this Aſſembly, conform to the citation given him thereanent, To Anſwer to thoſe things wherewith he is charged, but he not compearing, The General Aſſembly upon the Twenty fifth day of *December* laſt Appointed a Committee of their own Number to conſider the whole Proceſs led againſt him and make Report, which Committee did upon the Third day of *January* inſtant, bring in ſome Overtures thereanent, and the ſaid Report together with an Extract of the Proceſs and Depoſitions of Witneſſes led againſt him; As alſo his own Confeſſion being conſidered, The General Aſſembly found that ſeveral Articles were ſufficiently proven againſt him, and therefore were of the Judgement that though the ſaid Mr. *John Hepburn* deſerved the higheſt cenſure of the Church, yet to manifeſt all tenderneſs and willingneſs to Reclaim him, They did appoint that in caſe Mr. *John Hepburn* would oblige himſelf under his hand, to walk orderly in all time coming, and Embrace a Call when offered to him, and oblige himſelf to attend the Charge he ſhould be fixed to, and ſubmit himſelf to the Reſpective Judicatories of this Church, and forbear after this to *Preach* or Exerciſe any other part of his Miniſtry without the conſent of the ſaid Judicatories, in that caſe the Aſſembly declared they ſhould let all Proceſſes led againſt him fall, But in caſe he either appeared not before this Aſſembly or ſhould not oblige himſelf as aforeſaid, then the General Aſſembly appointed him to be Suſpended from the Office of the Miniſtry, with certification that he ſhould be Depoſed by the Synod of *Dumfrees*, if he ſhould be found to contraveen the ſaid Act of Suſpenſion, with which Sentence the ſaid Synod ſhall acquaint all other Presbytries within this National Church. Likeas in caſe the ſaid Mr. *John* ſhall be Depoſed, The General Aſſembly did appoint that the whole Proceſs led againſt him ſhall be *Printed*: That all Men may ſee the Moderation and Juſtice of the ſeveral Judicatories that had occaſion to Proceſs him, and in caſe that the Aſſembly ſhould Suſpend him, and he ſubmit thereunto, that it ſhould be free for the ſaid Synod or Presbytrie of *Dumfrees* to take off the ſaid Sentence upon his Application and deſire of the ſame, and embraceing the Terms above ſpecified: And upon the Day and Date hereof, The ſaid Mr. *John Hepburn* being again Thrice publickly Called at the moſt Patent Door of the Church, where the Aſſembly was Sitting, and not Compearing, The General Aſſembly being well, and ripely Adviſed with the whole Premiſſes, did and hereby do actually Suſpend the ſaid Mr. *John Hepburn* from the Exerciſe of his Miniſtry, and appoints theſe Preſents to be Intimate by the Miniſter, who is to *Preach* in

the New Church of *Edinburgh* the next *Lords-Day*: As alſo that the Sentence be afterwards intimate in all the Paroch Churches within the Provincial Synods of *Glaſgow*, *Air* and *Dumfrees*.

The next General Aſſembly of this National Church, is to be held at Edinburgh *upon the ſecond day of* January, One Thouſand Six hundred and Ninety ſeven Years.

The General Aſſembly being cloſ'd; The Members were diſmiſs'd with Prayer, Singing of the 85 Pſalm from the 6 Verſe to the end, and pronouncing of the Bleſſing.

Collected, and Extracted, From the Records of the General Aſſembly, By Me,
J. Bannatyne. *Cls. Syn. National.*

A

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FINIS.

THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly,

OF THE

CHURCH

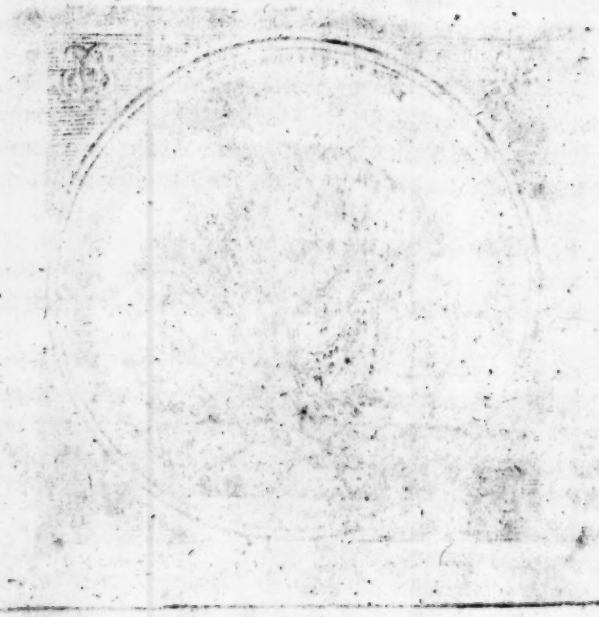
OF

SCOTLAND;

Conveened at *Edinburgh*, *January* 2 1697.

Collected and Extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH,
Printed by *George Mosman*, Printer to this CHURCH and Its ASSEMBLIES. M. DC. XCVII.



ACTS
OF THE
General Assembly,
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND;

Holden and begun at *Edinburgh*, the 2 Day of *January* 1697, and ending the 12 of the same Moneth.

I.

The Recording of His Majesties Commission, To the Lord Carmichael, *for Representing His Majesty in this Assembly.*

Edinburgh 2 *January* 1697. Sess. 1.

THIS Day, The General Assembly of the Ministers and Elders of this National Church, being Conveened, There was produced to them by a Noble Lord, *John* Lord *Carmichael*, His Majestie's *Commission* under the Great Seal of this Kingdom, Nominating and Appointing Him to be His Majestie's High Commissioner and Representative in this National Assembly, which was publickly Read in their Audience, with all due Honour and Respect, and the General

Assembly Appointed, and hereby Appoints the same to be Recorded in the Registers of this Assembly, therein to remain, *ad futuram rei Memoriam*, The *Tenor* whereof follows.

" GULIELMUS Dei Gratia, Magnæ *Britanniæ*, *Franciæ*
" & *Hiberniæ* Rex, Fideique Defensor: Omnibus pro-
" bis Hominibus, ad quos præsentes Literæ Nostræ pervene-
" rint, *Salutem:* Quandoquidem statuimus Conventum Ge-
" neralem Ecclesiæ, Antiqui nostri Regni *Scotiæ*, ad *Se-*
" *cundum* diem Mensis *Januarii* proximæ sequentis continua-
" ri. Nosque autem abunde Cupidi & Judicantes etiam ne-
" cessarium esse, propter commodum dictæ Ecclesiæ, ut *Ge-*
" *neralis Conventus* antedictus Die statuto debite observetur,
" Sed rebus magni momenti alio vocantibus, dicto Conven-
" tui interesse Nequimus; Cumque Testimoniis perplurimis
" & probatis abunde nobis Satisfactum sit, & de præclaris
" Animi dotibus & fide Eximia, Fidelissimi & Dilectissimi,
" Nostri Consiliarii *Joannis Domini Carmichael*, Quodque ad
" Munera Summi Officii infra mentionati rite exercenda &
" obeunda in finem supra expressum usquequaque est idone-
" us; Noveritis igitur nos Feciss & Constituisse, sicuti per
" has nostras patentes Literas Facimus & Constituimus eun-
" dem *Joannem Dominum Carmichael* Supremum Nostrum
" Commissionarium. Quoad effectum infra expressum. Da-
" mus pariter & concedimus illi, Sacram nostram Personam
" & Authoritatem Nostram Regalem Representandi,
" Præsentiam nostram supplendi, Locumque Nostrum
" in dicto subsequenti Generali Conventu, tanquam
" Commissionario Nostro, in hunc effectum specialiter
" constituto, Tenendi, Omniaque alia ad Imperium
" & Munus Commissionarii, pro Generali Ecclesiæ Con-
" ventu peragendi, Tam plene, adeoque libere in quo-
" vis Respectu, quam Quilibet alius ejusdem Supremi Mu-
" neris & Characteris fecerat, seu quovis tempore retroacto
" facere poterat, atque sicuti, Nos ipsi personaliter præsen-
" tes facere poterimus, plenariam & ampliss Nostram
" Potestatem & Commissionem: Quæquidem omnia & singula,
" a dicto *Joanne* Domino *Carmichael*, in hac nostra Commis-
" sione prosequenda, legitime facienda, Nos firmiter ap-
" probamus, Rata habemus & habituri sumus. Omnibus &
" singulis insuper antedicti Conventus & Ecclesiæ Pastoribus
" & Presbyteris, & cæteris quibuscunque hujus Regni no-
" stri Subditis, cujuscunque Qualitatis & Conditionis, ut di-
" ctum *Joannem* Dominum *Carmichael*, Tanquam Supre-
" mum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad Effectum &

" Modum

" Modum ſupra mentionatum, Agnoſcant, Revereantur & " dicto ipſius Audientes ſe præbeant, ſtricte Mandamus & " Imperamus. *Ac denique* hanc Noſtram Commiſſionem a " die quo Magnum hujus Regni Noſtri *Sigillum* præſenti- " bus eſt appenſum, ac deinceps hac ſequenti Seſſione dicti " Generalis Conventus & uſque dum a Nobis revocabitur in " vigore continuare Declaravimus, & per præſentes *Declara-* " mus. In cujus *Rei* Teſtimonium, *Præſentibus* Magnum " *Sigillum* Noſtrum appendi præcepimus. Apud Aulam No- " ſtram de *Kenſington*, *Vigeſimo Tertio* Die Menſis *Decembris*, " Anno *Domini*, Milleſimo Sexcenteſimo Nonogeſimo Sex- " to, Annoque Regni Noſtri Octavo.

Per Signaturam, Manu S. D. N. *Supraſignatam.*

Locus Sigilli Appenſi

IN DORSO.

Written to the Great Seal, and Regiſtrate the laſt day of December 1696. Dun. Ronald *Deput.*

Sealed at Edinburgh, *the* 1 *day of* January 1697. A. Home.

I. I.

His Majeſties Gracious Letter

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE ſaid Day, His Majeſties High Commiſſioner, produced His Majeſties Moſt Gracious Letter, Directed to this Aſſembly, which was publickly *Read* in their

Hearing, with all due Reſpect, and appointed to be Regiſtrate in the Books of this Aſſembly. The Tenor whereof follows.

WILLIAM R.

Right Reverend, and Well-beloved,

WE Greet you well. The Proceedings of the laſt General Aſſembly was very ſatisfying to Us, which hath Encouraged Us to allow and countenance Your Meeting now. We have Choſen Our Right Truſtee and Well-beloved Councellour *John* Lord *Carmichael*, to repreſent Our Royal Perſon, and bear Our Authority as our Commiſſioner, in this Aſſembly; We have ſufficient Experience of his Fidelity to Us, and of His Ability and Fitneſs for diſcharging this Truſt: The preſent Juncture of Affairs will not allow of Your ſitting long; Therefore you are to loſe no Time, in doing what is moſt neceſſary for ſuppreſſing and reſtraining of Vice and Prophanity, and in planting of Vacant Churches, with Pious and Moderate Miniſters. This will be Acceptable to us, and in doing which, You ſhall have all neceſſary Concurrence and Aſſiſtance. As We have done formerly, ſo We do now, upon this Occaſion, Aſſure You, That We are reſolved to maintain *Preſbyterian Church-Government*, in that Our Kingdom of *Scotland*; And therefore We expect, That in all Matters, that come before You, You will proceed and conclude with Calmneſs and Moderation, which is the Duty of all, Eſpecially in Church-Meetings. We leave what further is neceſſary, to Our Commiſſioner, whom We have fully Inſtructed. And ſo We bid You heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at Kenſington, *the Twenty fourth Day of* December 1696, *and of Our Reign the Eighth Year.*

By His Majeſtie's Command

Tullibardine.

For the Reverend, Truſtee and Well-beloved Miniſters, and Elders, met in the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

At Edinburgh.

III.

III.

Act for bringing in, and Enrolling the Names of all Probationers for the Miniſtry, and Students of Divinity.

Edinburgh, 4 *January* 1697. Ante Meridiem, Seſſ. 3.

THE General Aſſembly, for ſeveral Weighty Cauſes, Hereby Enacts and Appoints, that the Commiſſioners from the ſeveral Presbytries within this Church, bring in an account to the General Aſſembly yearly, of all the Students of Divinity, who have paſſed their Tryals in order to the Miniſtry, from one Aſſemby to another: As alſo, of all others, who have not paſt Tryals, that have an Eye to the Holy Miniſtry, and do attend the Leſſons of the ſeveral Profeſſors of Divinity in the *Univerſities*, and perform the Exerciſes enjoined them there, That a Roll may be made of them, and their Names Read in open Aſſembly, and Recorded in the Regiſters thereof.

IV.

The General Aſſemblies Anſwer

TO

His Majeſties Gracious Letter

Edinburgh, 6 January 1697, *ante meridiem*, Seſſ. 4.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

WE, the Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of *Scotland*, are very ſenſible of Our Happineſs in Your Majeſties being ſatisfied with the proceedings of the laſt Aſſembly, And in being pleaſed to ſignify ſo much by Your Gracious Letter directed to us, and we are no leſs ſenſible of Your Majeſties Goodneſs, in giving Your Royal Countenance to Our Meeting at this time, being the very ſame time, unto which it was indicted at the cloſe of the laſt Aſſembly: And Your Majeſties reiterated Choice of the Lord *Carmichael*, To repreſent Your Royal Perſon among Us, who hath on all Occaſions manifeſted an untainted Fidelity unto Your Majeſty, and conſtant kindneſs to this Church, is a freſh proof of Your Majeſties tender Care of Us; We reckon it Our bound Duty, ſo to conſider

the preſent Juncture of Your Affairs, as that our being long together may not be any way prejudicial unto the ſame, and therefore ſhall diſpatch what is preſently neceſſary with all Application, delaying other things to a more convenient Seaſon; And We hope, Your Majeſty ſhall never find any Aſſembly of the Church of *Scotland* uneaſy on that head. SIR, As We cannot but Lament the abounding of Impiety and Prophanity in this Land, So We muſt acknowledge Your Majeſties Chriſtian Care, in enacting good *L*aws, for ſuppreſſing the ſame; The vigorous Execution of which we humbly beg, as that which will highly tend to the Exalting of the Glory of GOD, and to the Eſtabliſhing of Your Throne; and We for Our Parts, ſhall uſe all Eccleſiaſtick Means proper for Us, that may be conducive therunto. We have, through the good Hand of GOD upon Us, Made ſome conſiderable Progreſs in planting Vacant Congregations, and we do look upon it as the chief part of the Work, which we have to do at this time, to make further Advancements therein; By encouraging all *P*ious, and Serious *P*erſons to join with Us, in the Work of the Goſpel, and by facilitating their ſetlement, in places where they may be moſt uſeful, and where there is greateſt need of them: We beg leave on this occaſion, to acknowledge Your Majeſties Royal Bounty beſtowed on this Church, ſince the laſt Aſſembly, for defraying the publick Charges of the ſame, which we ſhall be careful to apply, to the Uſes Your Majeſty deſigned it for.

May GOD always preſerve Your Sacred *P*erſon, from All both ſecret Attempts, and open Violence of Execrable Men; May You have a Long and Proſperous Reign over theſe Nations; May Your Forces have Succeſs, both by Sea and Land; May Your Peoples Love and Fidelity anſwer the manifold Obligations You have laid upon them: And after a fulneſs of Earthly Bleſſings here, may you forever wear a Crown of Glory that fadeth not away: Which are the ſincere Prayers of

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

Your Majeſties moſt Faithful, moſt Obedient and moſt Humble Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders, met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in Our Preſence, in Our Name, and at Our Appointment, By

W. Crichton Moderator.

Act

V.

Act anent Overtures, concerning the Diſcipline and Method of proceeding in Eccleſiaſtick Judicatories, offered to the Aſſembly by a private hand.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly having heard the Report of a Committee of their own Number for Overtures, anent the *Overtures concerning the Diſcipline, and Method of proceeding in Eccleſiaſtick Judicatories in the Church of* Scotland, now produced in their own preſence, Appoints the ſame to be ſent as Overtures from private hands, to the ſeveral Presbytries, within this National Church: And ordains the ſaids Presbytries, to ſend their Animadverſions and Obſerves thereupon, to the Commiſſion to be appointed by this Aſſembly, betwixt and the firſt of *Auguſt* next, and Appoints the ſaid Commiſſion to prepare the ſaids Overtures againſt the General Aſſembly, to be brought in thereto as Overtures, and Appoints the Commiſſioners from Presbytries, to take Copies of the ſaids Overtures from *George Moſman* the Aſſemblies Printer, for the End forſaid.

Act anent theſe Miniſters, who have not obeyed the Appointment of the laſt Aſſembly, concerning the Miſſion to the North.

Edinburgh, 7 January 1697. *Ante merid.* Seſſ. 5.

THE ſaid Day, in preſence of the General Aſſembly, The Committee for Overtures, Reported, that according to the Appointment of this Aſſembly they had been taking Tryal, how the Act of the late Aſſembly, concerning the Miſſion of ſome Miniſters to the *North* was obſerved, and had called the Presbytries, and Perſons concerned to have compeared before them; And that as to Mr. *James Thomſon*, Mr. *John Sandilands*, Mr. *Robert Edgar*, Mr. *Andrew Rodgers*, Mr. *John Paiſly* at *Lethennoch*, and Mr. *Donald Campbel*, there

were Defences made for them, and the ſaid Committee were of Opinion, that they were not Cenſurable, in reſpect of their *Defences*, which were held forth in preſence of the Aſſembly, and the General Aſſembly having conſidered the ſame, They find it neceſſary, that exact Obedience be given to the Aſſemblies Acts; And therefore tho the Perſons abovenamed have not been found Cenſurable: Yet the General Aſſembly appoints the *Reſpective* Presbytries to whom they belong, to ſee them fulfil their *Miſſion*, and in caſe the Presbytry find ſufficient ground to Exoner them, it muſt be done with this ſpecial proviſion, that the Presbytry provide another fit perſon in their room, as they will be Anſwerable, and that their *Miſſion* be fulfilled betwixt and the firſt of *Auguſt*; it being always underſtood as the Mind of this Aſſembly, that they are Lyable to Calls and Tranſportations, as theſe on the firſt *Miſſion*, except one be already Tranſported out of their Presbytry.

And the General Aſſembly having heard the Report of the Committee for Overtures, anent Mr. *James Stirling*, and Mr. *William Steel*, who tho they went to the *North*, did not ſtay their full time, and Mr. *Joſeph Drew*, who did not at all goe *North* in *Miſſion*, according to the appointment of the laſt Aſſembly; They being Called, and all Abſent, and not ſending their Excuſes, and likeways the *Defences* made for them, for their not giving Obedience being conſidered, as alſo the Opinion of the ſaid Committee for Overtures, finding their *Defences* irrelevant. The General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Mr. *James Stirline*, and Mr. *William Steel* to fulfil their *Miſſion*, betwixt and the firſt of *Auguſt* next; and as to Mr. *Joſeph Drew*, becauſe he hath not as yet been in the *North*, Appoints him to repair to the Province of *Murray*, and there ſtay and Exerciſe his Miniſtry for Four Moneths betwixt and the ſaid time.

VII.

Act anent Family-Worſhip, and Cenſuring Ruling Elders and Deacons, who neglect the ſame.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly conſidering, how neceſſary a Duty it is, that the Worſhip of God, and calling upon His Name be daily performed, in all Families; Do recommend

mend it to Miniſters and Elders in each Congregation, to take care thereof, and it being the Duty of all Ruling Elders, and Deacons to be Exemplary herein, the Aſſembly renews, and confirms the Act of Aſſembly 1694. Made againſt Prophaneneſs, Recommending that none be Ruling Elders who make not Conſcience of this unqueſtionable Duty; and do likeways appoint, that in caſe any Elders or Deacons ſhall neglect to Worſhip God in their Families by themſelves, or others appointed for that effect, that they be ſeriouſly admoniſhed to amend, and if need be rebuked for the ſame, and if notwithſtanding of Admonitions and Rebukes of the Miniſter and other Elders, any Elder or Deacon continue obſtinate in their Neglect; that ſuch Elder or Deacon be removed from his Office by the *Presbytry*, and appoints this Act to be Read in all the Churches Yearly, *As* alſo the ſaid 13 Act of the Aſſembly 1694 againſt *Prophaneneſs*, and that upon the firſt Sabbath of *May*.

VIII.

Act for punctual obedience to Appointments of Miniſters to ſupply Vacant Churches.

Edinburgh, 8 January 1697. *Poſt meridiem.* Seſſ. 6.

THE General Aſſembly, conſidering how much it is the duty of all the Miniſters of this Church, to give punctual and exemplary obedience to all the Acts and *Appointments* of the *Aſſemblies* thereof, and particularly that in the preſent Exigency of the Church, wherein there continues ſo conſiderable a number of Vacancies, Miniſters appointed by the General *Aſſemblies*, or their *Authority*, to labour for ſome time in theſe Corners of the Church, where the Vacancies are moſt numerous, ought exactly to obey the ſame, at and during the time of their appointment, and that their Neglect herein is very prejudicial to the Intereſt of the Goſpel, and diſcouraging to the Miniſters, who are ſetled in theſe parts; Do therefore in the fear of the Lord, obteſt and beſeech all Miniſters, to be diligent, and faithful in their performance of what is appointed them, and do appoint that in caſe any Miniſter ſhall not exactly and timouſly perform their Reſpective *Appointments*, particularly in

going to the *North*, that they ſhall be ſuſpended from the Exerciſe of their Miniſtry, for the ſpace of three Moneths by their *Reſpective* Presbytries, ſo ſoon as they begin to neglect this Duty, and the General Aſſembly do require the Moderators of the ſeveral *Presbytries* to move and propoſe to the Presbytries, to proceed to inflict the Cenſure above appointed without delay, and in caſe any Moderator ſhall neglect, and delay the performance of his Duty hereby required, that the ſaid Moderator be ſuſpended from the Exerciſe of his Miniſtry by the next enſuing Synod of the Bounds for the ſpace of Three *Moneths*: And in caſe that inevitable Impediments fall providentially in the way of *Miniſters*, thus appointed for Supplies, that cannot but free the *Miniſter* of any *Neglect*, that the Presbytry he belongs unto, record the ſame in their *Regiſters* and produce them to their Synod at their next *Meeting*, to be by them judged; But withal, the Presbytry in that caſe, ſhall be obliged to ſend another, under the ſame Certifications; But ſo ſoon as he applies to the *Presbytry*, and offers Obedience, the *Presbytry* ſhall be obliged to take off the Act of Suſpenſion. And the General Aſſembly appoints their Churches to be ſupplyed daily, or at leaſt Two Sabbaths of Three, during their Abſence, and the *Miniſters* appointed to make theſe Supplies, in caſe of their Neglect, are to be Presbyterially Rebuked, and that inſert in the Records of the Presbytry, and that Synods do particularly enquire anent, and ſee to the Execution of this Act, and make Report to the next enſuing Aſſembly.

IX.

Act, anent the Method of paſſing Acts of Aſſembly, of General Concern to the Church, and for preventing of Innovations.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly, taking to their Conſideration, the Overture and Act, made in the laſt Aſſembly, concerning Innovations, and having heard the *Report* of the ſeveral Commiſſioners from *Presbytries*, to whom the conſideration of the ſame was Recommended, in order to

Its

its being more ripely Adviſed, and Determined in this Aſſembly; And conſidering the frequent Practice of former Aſſemblies of this Church, and that it will mightily conduce to the exact Obedience of the Acts of Aſſemblies, that General Aſſemblies be very deliberate in making of the ſame, and that the whole Church have a previous Knowledge thereof, and their Opinion be had therin, and for preventing any ſudden Alteration, or Innovation, or other Prejudice to the Church, in either Doctrine or Worſhip, or Diſcipline, or Government thereof, now happily Eſtabliſhed; Do therefore Appoint, Enact, and Declare, That before any General Aſſembly of this Church, ſhall paſs any Acts, which are to be binding Rules and Conſtitutions to the Church, the ſame Acts be firſt propoſed as Overtures to the Aſſembly, and being by them paſt as ſuch, be remitted to the Conſideration of the ſeveral Presbytries of this Church, and their Opinions and Conſent Reported by their Commiſſioners, to the next General Aſſembly following, who may then paſs the ſame in Acts, if the more General Opinion of the Church, thus had, agree thereunto.

X.

Overture, for punctual ſending of Commiſſioners to General Aſſemblies, and their attendance during the ſitting thereof.

Edinburgh *January* 9 1697. *Ante meridiem.*

Seſſ. 7.

THat theſe Presbytries who do not chuſe their Commiſſioners timouſly to the General Aſſembly, as likeways theſe Commiſſioners, who being timouſly choſen, do not come up to the firſt *ſederunt* thereof, ſhall have the greater burden of Supplies; and that beſide what Cenſure the Aſſembly ſhall think fit to inflict upon them: *And* alſo, That the Twelfth Act of the Aſſembly 1647, Entituled, *Act for Cenſuring Abſents from the General Aſſembly*, be Revived; And for the more effectual Execution of this Act, That each Aſſembly ſhall appoint a Committee for Cenſuring of abſent Members, and for conſidering their Excuſes, And likeways, that the ſaid Committee conſider the Excuſes of ſuch

as are abſent from any of the *Sederunts* of the Aſſembly, or Committees thereof, and give their Opinion thereanent to the General Aſſembly; And for that end, that a Liſt of Abſents, from time to time, be given to the ſaid Committee from the ſeveral Meetings.

The General Aſſembly, having heard and conſidered this Overture, approves thereof as an Overture, and Tranſmits the ſame to the ſeveral Preſbytries, to be by them conſidered, againſt the next General Aſſembly.

XI.

Act againſt Prophaneneſs.

Edinburgh, *January* 11. *Poſt meridiem.*

Seſſ. 8.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, taking to their moſt ſerious conſideration, That notwithſtanding of the weighty Commands, and dreadful Threatnings contained in the Scriptures of Truth, and the many laudable Chriſtian *Laws* of this Nation, and the Acts of the General Aſſemblies of this Church, againſt all Impiety and Prophaneneſs; Yet the open outbreakings of Wickedneſs are not reſtrained, but God is daily diſhonoured and provoked, the profeſſion of Chriſtianity diſcredited, and the pernicious Infection of ill example diſſeminated and ſpread abroad, by the abounding Scandals of prophane and idle *Swearing*, *Curſing*, *Sabbath-breaking*, *Prophane withdrawing from*, *and contempt of Goſpel Ordinances*; Yea, oppoſing the diſpenſing of them by hindering the planting of Churches, and diſcouraging the Endeavours of others, for calling and fixing a faithful Goſpel Miniſtry among them, *Mocking of Piety and Religion, and the Exerciſes thereof*, *Fornication*, *Adultery*, *Drunkenneſs*, *Exceſſive Tipling*, *Deiſm*, *Blaſphemy*, *and other groſs abominable Sins*: And whereas, not only did the General Aſſembly, by their Act *April* 16. 1694. &c. commend to all Miniſters and Kirk Seſſions, carefully to apply to the ſeveral Magiſtrates of their bounds, for putting the Acts of Parliament, againſt Prophaneneſs in Execution;

But

But likewiſe, this current Parliament hath by their Acts Entituled againſt Prophaneneſs, *June* 15, 1693, *June* 28 1695, and *October* 9 1696. Declared that Miniſters, Kirk-Seſſions and Presbytries, ſhall by themſelves, or others in their Name, have good Intereſt to apply for, and purſue the Execution of the ſaids Acts; and albeit Execution is ordained to paſs at the Inſtance of any perſon whatſomever; yet it being eſpecially incumbent upon Miniſters, and Church Judicatories to hold hand thereto, Therefore that this National Aſſembly may not be wanting to their *Duty*, in contributing their utmoſt Endeavours, for bearing down and puniſhing of all Immorality and Wickedneſs, They do in the firſt place, in the aw and dread of the great GOD, who will not hold them guiltleſs, that break any of his Commandements, Beſeech, Warn, and Obteſt all the *People* of this Church and Nation, to break off their Sins by Repentance, and ſeriouſly in the fear of the Lord, to apply themſelves, to a Sober Conſcientious Chriſtian and circumſpect Walk in all manner of converſation, as becomes the *Profeſſours* of the Glorious Goſpel, of the Bleſſed GOD, and of that Religion which is pure and undefiled, and as they would not incur the heavy Diſpleaſure, and juſt Indignation of the Holy One, in being excluded for ever, from ſeing his Face in peace, and pull down his Temporal Judgements upon themſelves, and upon the *Land*: And next, they do require all the Miniſters of this Church, freely and faithfully to Preach, againſt the forementioned enormous Sins, as the Crying Sins of the time, that *People* may be brought to a conviction and ſenſe of their Hainouſneſs and Danger, and may reſtrain, not only for Fear, but from Conſcience. And farther they do appoint, That *Presbytries* and Kirk Seſſions do faithfully, and impartially Exerciſe Church-Diſcipline, againſt all ſuch Scandalous Offenders, and uſe all ſuitable meane in dealing with their Conſciences, to bring them to unfeigned Repentance and Reformation; and they ſeriouſly recommend to Miniſters and Members of Kirk Seſſions, from a true Zeal for GOD, to hold hand to the delating, informing againſt and puniſhing of all Prophane Tranſgreſſours, without reſpect of perſons, by Civil puniſhments, conform to the Acts of *Parliament* made in that behalf, and that they record their Diligence in their Seſſion Books, that the ſame may be ſeen by their Preſbytries, who are hereby required to make enquiry therein, at their Viſitations: And leaſt any may be found Backward in performing their Reſpective *Duties*, from an unwillingneſs, to diſpleaſe or diſoblige perſons of Note, who may happen to be Guilty; The General Aſſembly earneſtly Exhorts all Miniſters and Elders, and all Chriſtians to remember that in this

matter they have to do with the great and terrible GOD whoſe Honour is to be preferred, and whoſe Wrath is to be feared, before all other conſiderations whatſomever; And they Overture, that whatever Miniſter or Member of Seſſion be found Faulty, in neglecting to purſue the forſaid Scandals in their Stations; The ſaid Miniſter or Member of Seſſion be complained of and cenſured by the Presbytry for the firſt Fault, and that the Cenſure be Recorded; and that the ſecond Negligence be delated to, and Cenſured by the Synod; And that for the third Neglect they be cenſured by the Synod with Suſpenſion, to be Recorded, in the Synod Regiſter, And albeit the General Aſſembly hath full confidence in the Integrity and Zeal of all honeſt Chriſtian Magiſtrats, and that they will with firmneſs and Reſolution, make Conſcience of the Obligations of their Office, and faithfully diſcharge the Truſt committed to them by GOD, and the Supreme Authority of this Nation; Yet becauſe a ſlackneſs, or backwardneſs may fall out in ſome particular places, and there hath been hitherto a moſt Lamentable Defectiveneſs, in putting the Laws againſt Prophaneneſs to Execution, and ſome have refuſed to give Deputations and Commiſſions for that end, to perſons who have been duely Nominated and preſented to them: Therefore the General Aſſembly doth Recommend to each Miniſter or Kirk-Seſſion, who ſhall find cauſe to complain of a Magiſtrat for Negligence in Executing the ſaids Laws, or for refuſing Deputation and Commiſſion to ſuch perſons, as are duely Elected and preſented to them (from Paroches, where there is no ordinary Magiſtrat reſiding) conform to the abovementioned Act of Parliament, *October* 9, 1696. That they acquaint their Presbytries therewith, and that the ſaid Presbytry, having uſed all previous Means in dealing with the Conſciences of the ſaid Magiſtrate, without any good Effect, do with the Kirk Agent thereafter purſue the ſaid Negligent, or Refractory Magiſtrate, before the Lords of Council or Seſſion, according to the forſaid Acts of Parliament, And *Laſtly*, that theſe preſents be Read in all Churches within this Kingdom Twice a Year from the Pulpit, to wit, upon the firſt Sabbaths after *Whitſunday* and *Martinmaſs* Yearly.

XII. Com-

XII.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and and Elders, for planting vacant Churches in the North, *and ſome other particular Affairs, committed to them by the General Aſſembly.*

Edinburgh, *January* 11, 1697. *Poſt meridiem.*

Seſſ. 8.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, conſidering the many Vacant Churches on the North ſide of *Tay*, and that the laſt Aſſembly had laid down a Way, for a more expedite planting of Miniſters therein, which hath not yet had the full effect deſired; Doth therefore by theſe preſents Nominate and Appoint, Maſters, *Alexander Colden* Miniſter of the Goſpel at Dunce, *John Dyſart* at Coldinghame, *William Jack* at Kelſo, *John Gaudie* at Sprouſton, *John Vetch* at Weſtruther, *William Calderwood* at Legertwood, *Gabriel Semple* at Jedburgh, *George Guthrie* at Oxnam, *Charles Gordon* at Askirk, *Hugh Craig* at Gallaſheils, *James Clerk* at Innerweek, *Robert Stark* at Stenton, *Mungo Watſon* at Glaidſmure, *George Andrews* at Preſtonpans, *William Trail* at Borthwick, *Patrick Cumming* at Ormiſtoun, *Gilbert Rule* at Edinburgh, *William Crighton* there, *George Meldrum* there, *David Williamſon* at Weſtkirk, *John Monctief* at Edinburgh, *John Law* there, *James Kirton* there, *David Blair* there, *George Barclay* at Uphal, *Thomas Miller* at Kirkhſtoun, *James Thomſon* at Peebles, *Robert Livingſton* at Biggar, *William Vetch* at Drumfrees, *Robert Paton* there, *George Boyd* at Glencairn, *George Mulligine* at Moffat, *James Armſtrong* at Cannaby, *Robert Rowan* at Pennyghame, *Thomas Caſtellaw* at Lochſwalt, *Thomas Spalding* at Parton, *Andrew Æuart* at Kells, *Andrew Rodger* at Galſtoun, *Patrick Livingſton* at Air, *Alexander Orr* at Bith, *John Glaſgow* at Kilbirny, *Robert Wylie* at Hamilton, *Alexander Findlater* there, *John Bannatyne*, at Lanerk, *Thomas Linning* at Leſmehago, *William Dunlop* Principal of the Colledge of Glaſgow, *James Hay* at Kilſyth, *Patrick Simpſon* at Renfrew, *John Stirling* at Greenock, *Duncan Campbel* at Roſeneath, *Alexander King* at Bonil, *John Mckturin* at Kilmaddin,

din, *Daniel Campbel* at *K*ilmichael of Glaſrie, *Samuel Nairn* at Errol, *William Moncrief* at Methven, *William Reid*, at Dunning, *John Forreſter* at Stirling, *Alexander Douglaſs* at Logy, *Thomas Forreſter* at St. Andrews, *William Moncreif* at Largo, *George Hamilton* Principal of the Leonardine Colledge of *S*t. Andrews, *Edward Jamiſon* at Monymeal, *Andrew Bowie* at Ciriſs, *John Anderſon* at Leſly, *Archibald Riddel* at *W*eems, *Samuel Charters* at Innerkeithing, *Thomas James* at Cleiſh, *William Mitchel* at Dundee, *James Oſburn* at Aberdeen, *George Anderſon* at Tarves, *Thomas Ramſay* at Aberdeen, *Alexander Forbes* at Dyck, *James Thomſon* at Elgin, *Thomas Wilkie* at Canongate, *William Innes* at Thurſo, and *William Wiſeheart* at Leith Miniſters, *George* Earl of Melvil Preſident of the Council, *William* Earl of Crawfoord, *George* Earl of *S*utherland, *Robert* Lord Burleigh, *John* Lord Belhaven, *John* Lord Carmichael, Sir *James Stuart* His Majeſties Advocat, *Adam Cockburn* of Ormiſton Lord Juſtice Clerk, Sir *Alexander Swinton* of Merſington, Sir *Colin Campbel* of Aberuchil, Sir *David Home* of Croſrig, and Sir *John Hamilton* of Halcraig, four of the Senators of the Colledge of Juſtice. Mr. *Francis Montgomrie* of Giffan, *William Baillie* of Lamington, Sir *Archbald Muir* of Thornton Lord Provoſt of *E*dinburgh, Sir *Thomas Burnet* His *M*ajeſties Phyſician, *Alexander Monteith* Conveener in *Edinburgh*, Sir *Alexander Monro* of Bearcrofts, The *L*aird of *Humbie*, Sir *William Denholm* of Weſtſhiells, Sir *Thomas Stuart* of *K*irkfield, Sir *John Home* of Blackader, *Adam Drummond* of *M*eggins, Captain *John Erskin*, and Captain *James Coult* Ruling Elders, to be Commiſſioners of the General Aſſembly, to the effect aftermentioned; With full Power and Commiſſion to the ſaids Perſons, or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any Fifteen of the ſaids Commiſſioners, whereof Nine are always to be Miniſters, to *M*eet and Conveen within the Aſſembly Houſe at *Edinburgh*, The firſt Day after the Diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, and afterwards to meet the firſt Tueſday of every *M*oneth, and oftner as they ſhall ſee needful, during the continuance of this Commiſſion; And the General Aſſembly requires all the *M*embers of this Commiſſion, to attend carefully the *M*eetings thereof, eſpecially the Quarterly Meetings, which are hereby declared to be their *M*eetings, on the firſt *Tueſdays* of *March*, *June*, *September* and *December*, and that at the leaſt one out of every *P*resbytry be preſent then; With Power to the ſaids Commiſſioners, or their *Quorum*, to chuſe their own *M*oderator

derator and Clerk. And ſicklike, the General Aſſembly fully Impowers and Authoriſes the ſaids Commiſſioners to conſider. cognoſce, and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, any Calls and Proceſſes of Tranſportation, of any of the Fourty four Miniſters, Nominate to go North by way of *Miſſion*, by the laſt Aſſembly, and that in the ſame Way and *Manner*, and with the ſame *Powers*, granted to the Commiſſion of the laſt General Aſſembly, in relation to the ſaid Fourty four *Miniſters* then nominate, whether theſe of them, who have already obeyed their *Miſſion*, or theſe who have it to fulfil, or thele who are, or ſhall be named in their room, in caſe of inevitable Impediment of their fulfilment of the ſame, as is already provided, by a former Act of this Aſſembly: And likeways to proceed, and cognoſce in every Thing, contained in and conform to, the Inſtructions to be given unto them by this Aſſembly, as fully and freely, as if the ſamen were in theſe preſents at full length inſert and ſet down: And alſo, to conſider, cognoſce and determine in all *References*, Appeals and other Matters, that have been, or ſhall be particularly remitted to them for that effect, by any Act or order of this Aſſembly, all which are holden as herein expreſt. This Commiſſion is alſo to correſpond with the State anent Faſts and Thankſgivings. as occaſion falls out; and to ſpecifie the Cauſes thereof, And likeways to give Advice and Aſſiſtance to any Synod or *Presbytry* in difficult Caſes, as they ſhall be applyed unto by them; And the Aſſembly do hereby *Prohibit* the ſaids Commiſſioners to medle in any other *Matter*, than what is contained herein, Declaring alſo, that in, and for all their Actings, the ſaids Commiſſioners ſhall be countable to, and cenſurable by the next enſuing General Aſſembly of this Church, And *Laſtly*, The General Aſſembly hereby declares, That this Commiſſion ſhall continue till the *Meeting* of the next General Aſſembly of this National Church.

XIII.

Act and Recommendation anent Miniſters to the Army.

Edinburgh, 12. *January* 1697. *ante Meridiem.*

Seſſ. 9.

THE ſaid Day, There was preſented to the General Aſſembly, a Letter from the Right Honourable, the Viſcount of *Teviot*, Commander in chief of his *Majeſtie's* Forces within this Kingdom, Deſiring them to fall upon ſome way, how the ſaid ſtanding Forces may be provided with Preachers, and untill that be obtained, that they ſeriouſly Recommend to the *Reſpective Miniſters* and Church-Seſſions, where they are, or ſhall be ordered to quarter, to provide them with convenient Seats; for hearing with the ſaids Congregations, and to inſpect and notice them, as they do other Pariſhoners during their abode there, and aſſuring that care ſhall be taken, that they attend Ordinances, and walk Inoffenſively: And deſiring that the General Aſſembly would be pleaſed to Recommend to ſuch as they appoint to manage their Affairs, in the Intervalls of Aſſemblies, to notice how this is performed, as the ſaid Letter dated the 11*th* of *January* inſtant, and Signed by the ſaid Noble Lord in it ſelf bears. Which Letter being Read, and duely conſidered, The General Aſſembly unanimouſly Did, and hereby do Recommend, to the Reſpective *Miniſters*, Kirk-Seſſions and others concerned, where any of the ſaids Forces are, or ſhall be ordered to be quartered, to provide them with convenient Seats for Hearing, with the ſaids Congregations, and to Inſpect and Notice them, as they do other Pariſhoners, during their abode there, and if need be, to apply to the Commanding Officers, for taking care that Inferior Officers and Souldiers attend Ordinances, and walk inoffenſively: And farther, the General Aſſembly hereby Recommends, and refers to the Commiſſion appointed by this Aſſembly, during the continuance thereof, to take notice how this is performed; And likeways Recommends to the ſaid Commiſſion, to fall upon all expedient ways competent for them, how the ſaid Forces may be provided with Preachers, and upon Application to ſettle *Miniſters* in Regiments belonging to this Kingdom.

XIV. *Act*

XIV.

Act, appointing ſome Miniſters to go for the Supply of the North *quarterly, until the next Aſſembly.*

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, taking into conſideration, That albeit there hath been a good progreſs made, in ſettling of Vacancies Be north the Water of *Tay*, yet by reaſon of emerging Deaths of ſome, and Legal Deprivation of others of the late Conform Miniſters, who had till then poſſeſſed their Churches, many Vacancies are at preſent in that part of this Church, and the Miniſters who are ſettled there, are not in a condition to ſupply the ſame, in a ſuitable manner: Therefore the General Aſſembly have ordained, and hereby ordains, that the Synods Be ſouth *Tay* after named, ſhall ſend to the bounds of the Synods of *Angus* and *Merns*, *Aberdeen*, *Murray*, *Roſs*, *Sutherland* and *Caithneſs*, and Presbytries of *Perth*, *Auchterarder* and *Dunkeld* within the Synod of *Perth*, the number of Eighteen Miniſters quarterly, according to the proportions afternamed, *viz.* That Three be ſent to Supply the Vacancies in the Presbytries of *Perth*, *Auchterarder*, and *Dunkeld*; Three to Supply the Vacancies of the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*; Five to Supply the Vacancies of the Synod of *Aberdeen*; Five to Supply the Vacancies of the Synod of *Murray*; and Two to Supply the Vacancies of the Synod of *Roſs*, *Sutherland* and *Caithneſs:* And the Aſſembly ordains theſe above Supplies of Eighteen Miniſters to be ſent Quarterly, by the Synods afternamed, according to the following proportions, to wit, That from the Synod of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, there be ſent quarterly Three; From the Synod of *Lothian* Four; From the Synod of *Drumfrees* One; From the Synod of *Galloway* One; From the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air* Five; from the Synod of *Fife* Three; and from the Presbytries of *Stirline* and *Dumblane* within the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirline* One; And likeways the Aſſembly doth ordain, That theſe Three Miniſters who ſhall go in ſupply from the Synod of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, ſhall ſupply the Vacancies in the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, That of the Four who ſhall go from the Synod of *Lothian*, Two ſhall go to the Bounds of the Synod of *Aberdeen*, and the other Two to the Synod of *Murray*, as the Synod of *Lothian* ſhall determine,

That the One who ſhall go from the Synod of *Drumfrees*, ſhall go to the Presbytries of *Perth*, *Auchterarder* and *Dunkeld*, That the One who ſhall go from the *Synod* of *Galloway* ſhall go to the ſaid Presbytries, of *Perth*, *Auchterarder* and *Dunkeld*, That the Five who ſhall go from the *Synod* of *Glaſgow*, ſhall go One of them to the ſaid *Presbytries* of *Perth*, *Auchterarder* and *Dunkeld*, Three of them to the *Synod* of *Aberdeen*, and One of them to the *Synod* of *Murray*, as the *Synod* of *Glaſgow* ſhall determine, that the Three who ſhall go from the *Synod* of *Fife*, ſhall go Two of them to the *Synod* of *Murray*, and one of them to the *Synods* of *Roſs*, *Sutherland* and *Caithneſs*, as the *Synod* of *Fife* ſhall determine, and that the One who ſtall go from the *Presbytries* of *Stirline* and *Dumblane* ſhall go to the bounds of *Roſs*, *Sutherland* and *Caithneſs*; And farther, becauſe it is neceſſary, that the ſaid *Supplyes* who ſhall go there for the firſt *Quarter*, be there ſooner than the next ordinary Meetings of the *Synods*: Therefore the Aſſembly have Nominate, and hereby Nominate the Miniſters afternamed, to repair to the Bounds of the *Synods* aftermentioned to ſupply the Vacancies there, and that they be there againſt the firſt Sabbath of *March* next, *viz.* From the Synod of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*. Mr. *Alexander Lauder* at *Mordington*. Mr. *Alexander Orrock* at *Hawick*, and Mr. *John Ferguſſon* at *Roberton*, to Repair to the Synod of *Angus* and *Merns*, From the Synod of *Dumfrees* Mr. *James Armſtrang* Miniſter at *Canaby*, to repair to the Presbytries of *Perth*, *Auchterarder* and *Dunkeld*; From the Synod of *Galloway*, Mr. *Robert Burnet* at *Monygaff*, to repair to the ſaid Presbytries of *Perth*, *Auchterarder* and *Dunkeld*; from the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air*, Mr. *John Hunter* Miniſter at *Air*, to repair to the ſaids Presbytries of *Perth*, *Auertterarder* and *Dunkeld*, Mr. *James Garſhore* at *Carmichael*, Mr. *David Ewing* at *Calder*, Mr. *John Dougal* at *New Kilpatrick*, to repair to the Synod of *Aberdeen*; Mr. *Andrew Foules* Miniſter at *New-Kilmarnock*, to Repair to the Synod of *Murray*; from the Presbytries of *Stirling* and *Dumblain*, Mr. *Robert Gourly* Miniſter at *Tillicultry* to repair to the Synods of *Roſs*, *Sutherland* and *Caithneſs*; from the Synod of *Lothian*, Mr. *Archibald Hamilton* at *Corſterphine*, Mr. *William Ruſſel* at *Morum*, to repair to the Synod of *Aberdeen*; Mr. *John Shaw* at *Newton*, Mr. *Robert Horsburgh* at *Glenquhame*, to repair to the Synod of *Murray*; and from the Synod of *Fife*, Mr. *Andrew Geddy* at *Dairſy*, Mr. *William Wardropper* at *Anſtruther* Eaſter, to repair to the Synod of *Murray*, and Mr. *Allan Logan* at *Toryburn*, to repair to the Synods of *Roſs*, *Sutherland* and *Caithneſs*: And the Aſſembly ordains, that the Brethren abovementioned, and ſuch who ſhall be here-

hereafter Nominate, by their Reſpective Synods, for the ſucceeding Quarters, do repair to the Reſpective *Bounds* as above ſet down, againſt their Reſpective Times allotted to them, and to be directed by the Presbytries and Miniſters reſiding in theſe *Reſpective* Synods they repair to, as to what particular Congregations they ſhall apply themſelves unto: And the Aſſembly doth farther ordain the above written Synods in the *South*, to ſend to the places, and in manner abovementioned, a new Quarterly *Supply* of as many Miniſters more, to continue for the Second *Quarter*, beginning the ſame the firſt of *June* next, and ſo forth Quarterly, ay and while the ſitting of the next General Aſſembly. And the Aſſembly Recommends to the Reſpective Presbytries, to take care to ſupply the Kirks of theſe *Miniſters*, who ſhall be ſent North for Supplies, with daily Preaching, at leaſt Two Sabbaths of Three: And the Aſſembly doth likeways ordain, theſe *Miniſters* ſent in ſupply to the *North*, to get and produce to their own Preſbytry a Teſtimonial, from the *Presbytries* within the bounds where they did ſupply, of their having fulfilled their Appointment, and of their Carriage, and Behaviour, during their abode in theſe *Bounds*.

XV.

Approbation of the Proceedings of the Commiſſion, appointed by the late General Aſſemby.

Edinburgh, January 12 1697. *Poſt meridiem*

Seſſ. 10 *& ultima.*

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church having heard the Report of a Committee of their own Number appointed to conſider, reviſe, and examine the Actings and Proceedings of the Commiſſioners, appointed to meet at *Edinburgh* by the late General Aſſembly; and after ſerious Conſideration thereof, ſubſcribed by *Mr. John Monerief* Clerk thereto; Do evidence much Wiſdom, Prudence and Diligence; and that the Commiſſion hath orderly and formally proceeded in every Thing, according to their Commiſſion and Inſtructions; Therefore, this General Aſſembly, by an unanimous Vote, did, and hereby do Ratifie

and approve the ſaids whole Actings, Proceedings and Concluſions, of the ſaids Commiſſioners, contained in the ſaid, Regiſter thereof, beginning the Seventh day of *January* 1696, and ending the Third day of December thereafter now laſt by paſt, conſiſting of an hundred and eighteen *Pages*.

XVI.

Act approving Overtures anent, and Inſtructions to a Commiſſion, for the more full and expeditious Planting of the North.

Eadem Seſſione.

THis Day, the following Overtures and Inſtructions were read in preſence of the General Aſſembly, The Tenor whereof follows.

1. That when any *Paroch* on the North ſide of *Tay*, or of the Town and Presbytry of *Perth*, and Presbytries of *Anchterarder* and *Dunkeld*, in the *Synod* of *Perth*, ſhall call any Miniſter belonging to any Paroch on the North Side of *Tay*, they may, without ſending any Commiſſioner of their own *Pariſh*, to proſecute the ſame, ſend the Call approven of, and concurred with, by the Presbytry of the bounds, to the Moderator of the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly; who for greater Expedition, ſhall cauſe double the ſaid Call, and atteſt the Copie, and ſend the ſame, with the Reaſons of the deſired Tranſportation in a Letter to the Moderator of that Presbytry, to whom the Miniſter called doth belong.

2. That the Moderator of the ſaid Presbytry, upon the Receipt of the ſaid *Letter*, ſhall be obliged to tranſmit the ſaid Call, with the Reaſons thereof, to the Miniſter called, and ſhall cauſe ſummond the ſaid Miniſter, and the *Pariſh* he belongs to, the next Sabbath, in the ordinary way, to appear before the ſaid *Presbytry*, and anſwer the ſaid Call, and *Reaſons* thereof.

3. That if the *Presbytry*, after they have maturely conſidered the Affair, ſhall not grant the deſired Tranſportation, The Agent for the Kirk, or any Perſon, who ſhall under his Hand be deputed by him, (who is hereby Authoriſed for that effect) may appeal from the ſaid Presbytry, and their Sentence, to the Synod of the Bounds, or the next quarterly Meeting

Meeting of the Commiſſion which ſhall firſt happen; And thereby the ſaid Presbytry ſhall be obliged to tranſmit the ſaid Call, and whole Proceſs, with their Sentence and Reaſons of the ſame, to the Synod or quarterly Meeting of the Commiſſion which ſhall firſt happen, and cite the Miniſter called, and Pariſh he belongs to, for that effect, which Synod or Commiſſion, are hereby empowered in that caſe, to judge the ſaid Cauſe, and determine therein as they ſhall judge reaſonable.

4. And if, when the Synod hath conſidered ſuch a *Proceſs*, and yet do not tranſport the Miniſter called, that there may lye an Appeal by the Agent for the Kirk or his Depute, in manner above, to the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, whereby the Synod ſhall be, and hereby is obliged to tranſmit the whole Affair to the next quarterly *Meeting* of the Commiſſion, and to cite all Parties concerned.

5. That when any ſuch *Proceſs* cometh thus before the Commiſſion, they ſhall finally determine the ſame, nor ſhall theſe Proceſſes go to any enſuing Aſſembly, either by Reference, or any other way.

6. That the Miniſter, Tranſported by any of the above Judicatores in the manner above, ſhall obey the ſaid Sentence, with Certification, conform to former Acts of Aſſemblies.

7. That ſeing the Aſſembly hath, by their Act, Determined and ordained, that the Number of Eighteen *Miniſters*, ſhall be ſent quarterly to the *North*, from the Synods in the South, The Aſſembly doth recommend to theſe ſeveral Syneds, to ſend likewayes an equal number of Probationers to the North, eſpecially thoſe who have had their Birth there, and that theſe ſtay ſix *Moneths*. And the Aſſembly recommends it to the Commiſſion, to take care that the ſeveral Synods and *Probationers* do effectually anſwer the ſame, as they will be anſwerable to the next Aſſembly.

8. That all Miniſters and *Probationers*, who ſhall be ſent to ſupply the North, ſhall not only Labour in Preaching of the Goſpel, but likewayes in Viſiting and Catechiſing the People, in ſuch method as the *Presbytrie* of the Bounds ſhall direct.

9. The Aſſembly do require the ſeveral Presbytries on the South ſide of Tay, to forbear to ſettle any Probationers within their Bounds, who had their Birth on the North ſide of *Tay*, at leaſt until the Meeting of the next Aſſembly; And do require the *Presbytries* on the North ſide of *Tay*, to exhort and ſtir up the People in their Bounds to call Probationers, who may be ſettled amongſt them, with more eaſe to themſelves, and leſs difficulty to the Church; And the Aſſembly do recommend it to the Commiſſion, to ſee due Obedience given hereunto.

10. That the Commiſſion do from time to time conſider, and take all the Amicable and Obliging Ways to facilitate the ſettling of the Vacant Pariſhes in the Northren Bounds above ſpecified; and as often as they ſhall think it fit, that they ſend a Delegate Number, of the moſt experienced of their own Members, to theſe Parts or any Corner thereof, to joyn with, and aſſiſt the Presbytries in theſe Bounds, to facilitate the Planting of theſe Vacancies, and to deal with the Heretors, and others concerned for that effect, and that they report from time to time their Diligence herein, that the Commiſſion may proceed accordingly.

11. That this Commiſſion, as often as they ſhall ſee cauſe, do apply to the Government, or any Magiſtrate, for their countenance of, and concurrence with the Judicatories of the Church, in what the Law allows, particularly for ſettling vacant Congregations.

12. That the Commiſſion have Power to ſettle Presbytries in *Caithneſs*, *Orkney* and *Zetland*, ſo ſoon as any competent Number of Miniſters ſhall be ſettled there, and to give them ſuch Inſtructions at their firſt Erection, as ſhall be needful for the Good of theſe Bounds.

13. That all Presbytries be very deliberate in their Procedings with any of the late Conform Miniſters, either in proceeding againſt any of them, when accuſed of groſs uncontroverted Scandals, or proceeding, in order to their Reception into the Goverment, on their Applications, in the Terms of the Acknowledgment, ſettled by the Aſſembly 1694, and take the Advice and Aſſiſtance of ſome of the Neighbouring Presbytries, and of the Commiſſion. And that the Commiſſion, and all other Judicatories, in their proceedings, as to Reception of any into the Government, do exactly keep by the Method and the Terms of the abovementioned Act of the General Aſſembly 1694, particularly the ſixth Overture and Inſtruction to the Commiſſion appointed by that Aſſembly.

All theſe Overtures and Inſtructions abovewritten, being maturely conſidered, The General Aſſembly of this National Church, did, and hereby do, approve of the ſame, and recommends and appoints according thereto in all points.

XVII. *Act*

Act XVII.

Act against the Deists, &c.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly Recommends to all Ministers and Church-Judicatories, to observe and put in Execution, the 21 Act of the late General Assembly, Entituled, *Act against the Atheistical Opinions of the Deists*, and for Establishing the Confession of Faith.

Act XVIII.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church of *Scotland*, is to be held at *Edinburgh*, upon the second *Tuesday* of *January*. One Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Eight Years.

The General Assembly being closed, The Members were dismiss'd with Prayer, singing the 133 *Psalm, and pronouncing of the Blessing.*

Collected and Extracted, From the Records of the General Assembly, By Me.

J. Bannatyne. *Cls. Syn. National.*

A

TABLE

Of the Printed Acts of the General Assembly *Anno* 1697.

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Recommendation to the Presbytry of *Aberdeen* in this preſent Exigent, to ordain *Mr. Thomas Baikie* Miniſter of *Kirkwall* in *Orkney*, upon a Call given to him. *Ibid.*

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Recommendation to the Commiſſion in favours of Mr. *John Dalgleiſh* Miniſter of *Oldmacher*. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to Mr. *Alexander Scheilds* Miniſter, to ſettle at St. *Andrews*, and a Reference to the Commiſſion, to give all the Aſſiſtance they can, in ſetling a Miniſter in the Regiment he ſerved in, or any other Regiment belonging to this Nation now abroad, as they ſhall be applyed unto for that effect. *Ibid.*

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Reference to the Commiſſion of the Proceſs againſt Mr. *George Mair*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion of the Proceſſes againſt *Mr. John Hepburn*. *Ibid.*

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Refererence to the Commiſſion of the Affair of Mr. *James Kirkwood*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion for Cenſuring Deficients in going *North* upon the *Miſſion*, not cenſured by this Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

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F I N I S.

THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

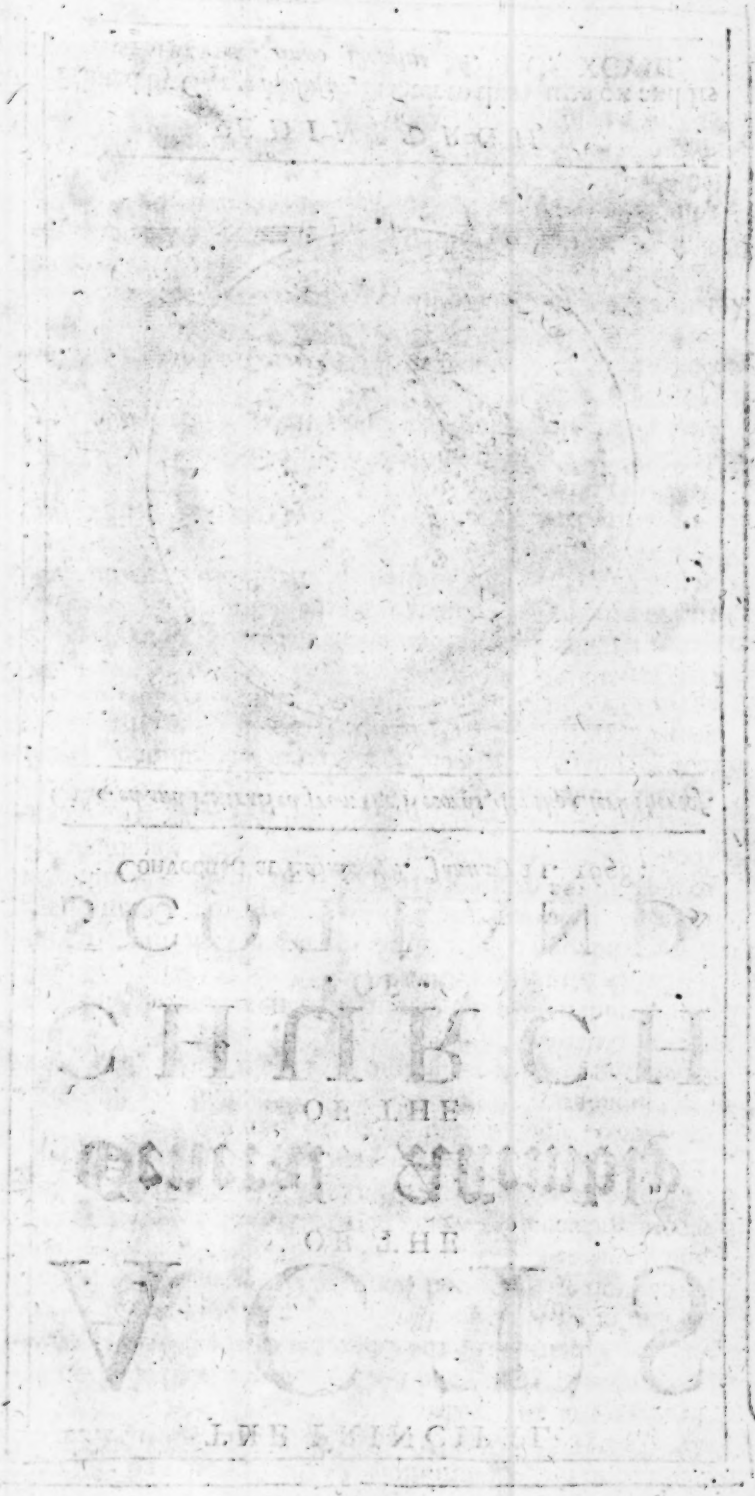
SCOTLAND,

Conveened at *Edinburgh. January* 11. 1698;

Collected and Extracted from the Records, By the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH,

Printed by *George Mosman*, Printer to this CHURCH and Its ASSEMBLIES. *Anno Domini* M. DC. XCVIII.



THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Holden and Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 11 Day of *January* 1698, and ending the 24 of the same Moneth.

I,

The Recording of His Majestie's Commission, To the Lord CARMICHAEL, *for Representing His* MAJESTY *in this* Assembly.

At Edinburgh 11 *January* 1698. Sess. I.

THIS Day, The General Assembly of the Ministers and Elders of this National Church, being Conveened, There was produced to them, by a Noble Lord, *JOHN* Lord *Carmichael*, His Majestie's *Commission*, under the Great Seal of this Kingdom, Nominating and Appointing Him to be His Majestie's High Commissioner and

Repreſentative in this National Aſſembly, which was publickly Read in their Audience, with all due Honour and Reſpect, and the General Aſſembly Appointed and hereby Appoints, the ſame to be Recorded in the Regiſters of this Aſſembly, therein to remain *ad futuram rei Memoriam*, The *Tenor* whereof follows.

"*GULIELMUS* Dei Gratia Magnæ *Britanniæ, Franciæ* & *Hiberniæ* Rex, Fideique Defenſor: Omnibus probis "Hominibus, ad quos præſentes Literæ Noſtræ pervenerint, "*Salutem*. Quandoquidem ex Decreto Noſtro, Generalis "Eccleſiæ conventus, Antiquioris noſtri Regni *Scotiæ* in *un*"*decimum* diem Menſis *Januarii* inſtantis Continuatus erat, "Noſque autem abundè cupidi, quin etiam neceſſarium eſſe "Judicantes in commodum dictæ Eccleſiæ, ut idem *Generalis* "*Conventus* Die ſtatuto debite obſervetur ſed rebus magni mo"menti alio vocantibus, dicto conventui intereſſe nequimus, "Cumque Fideliſſimus & Dilectiſſimus noſter Conſiliarius *Jo*"*annes Dominus Carmichael*, perplurima edidit ſpecimina, de "Facultatibus ſuis Eximijs, & fidelitate inſigni, unde nobis ab"unde Satisfactum eſt, Quod ad munera ſummi Officii Infra"mentionati rite Exercenda & obeunda, in finem ſupra ex"preſſum uſquequaque eſt idoneus, Noveritis igitur Nos "feciſſe & Conſtituiſſe, ſicuti per has noſtras patentes literas "facimus & conſtituimus Eundem *Joannem Dominum Car*"*michael*, Supremum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium quoad "Effectum infraexpreſſum; Damus pariter & Concedimus "illi, Sacram noſtram perſonam, & Authoritatem Noſtram "Regalem Repreſentandi, præſentiam noſtram ſupplendi, "locumque noſtrum in dicto Subſequenti Generali Conventu "tanquam Commiſſionario noſtro in hunc Effectum, ſpeci"aliter conſtituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad Imperium & "munus Commiſſionarii, pro Generali Eccleſiæ Conventu "peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in quovis reſpectu, "quam quilibet alius ejuſdem Supremi muneris & Characteris "fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore retroacto facere poterat; at"que ſicuti Nos ipſi perſonaliter præſentes facere poterimus, "Pleniſſimam & Ampliſſimam noſtram poteſtatem & Com"miſſionem. Quæquidem omnia & ſingula, a dicto *Joanne* "*Domino Carmichael*, in hac noſtra Commiſſione proſe"quenda legitime facienda, Nos firmiter Approbamus, Rati "habemus, & habituri ſumus. Omnibus & Singulis in ſu"pradicti conventus & Eccleſiæ Paſtoribus & Presbyteris, "& cæteris quibuscunque hujus Regni noſtri ſubditis, cujus"cunque qualitatis & conditionis, ut dictum *Joannem Domi*"*num Carmichael*, tanquam ſupremum noſtrum Commiſ"ſionarium quoad Effectum & modum ſupramentionatum "Agnoſcant, Revereantur, & dicto ipſius audientes ſe præbe-

anr,

"præbeant, ſtricte præcipimus, & imperamus. Ac denique, "hanc *Noſtram* Commiſſionem, a die quo magnum hujus "Regni Noſtri ſigillum præſentibus eſt appenſum, & deinceps "hac Seſſione ſequenti Generalis Conventus antedicti in vigore "continuare declaravimus & per præſentes Declaramus, vel "aliquedum a nobis revocabitur. In cujus rei Teſtimonium, "præſentibus Magnum ſigillum noſtrum appendi præcepimus. Apud aulam noſtram de *Kenſington*, quinto die menſis *Januarii*, Anno Domini, Milleſimo Sexcenteſimo Nonogeſimo Octavo, Regnique noſtri Anno nono.

Per ſignaturam manu S. D. N. *Regis Subſignatam.*

{ Locus Sigilli Appenſi }

IN DORSO.

Written to the great Seal, and Regiſtrat the tenth day of January 1698. Dun. Konald *Deput.*

Sealed at Edinburgh, *the tenth day of* January 1698. A. Home.

II.

His *MAJESTIES* gracious LETTER TO The *GENERAL ASSEMBLY:*

Eadem *Seſſione.*

THE ſaid Day, His *MAJESTIE'S* High COMMISSIONER produced His *Maieſtie's* Moſt Gracious LETTER, Directed to this *Aſſembly*, Which was publickly Read in their Hearing with all due Honour and Reſpect, and appointed to be Recorded in the Regiſters of this *Aſſembly*, The Tenor whereof followes.

WILLIAM R.

Right Reverend, and Well Beloved,

WEE Greet you Well. We are so well satisfied, with your Proceedings, at the last *General Assembly* that We agree to your Meeting now, though an other time had been more Convenient for Our Affairs. And we have again made choice, of Our Right Trustie, and Entirely Beloved Councellour *John* Lord *Carmichael*, to be Our Commissioner, of whose Fidelity, and Zeal for Our Service, We have had experience, on former Occasions, and who, We know, will be acceptable to you: And we doubt not but you will Act in such a manner in this *Assembly*, as that We shall have new Reason to be satisfied with you. And We do renew Our Assurances of Our Protection, and Countenance to the *Presbyterian Government*, now Settled in the Church of *Scotland*.

You know it is Our Inclinations, and We do Recommend to you, to Assume the *Episcopal Ministers* whose Lives, and Doctrine, do render them useful to the Church: and likewayes the Planting the Churches in the *North*, with the most Prudent and Pious of your Ministers: And that you send some of your number, who are best Qualified, To Preach in the remote Highland Parishes, where Ministers are not provided, and where there appears to be so much need of a Reformation, both from *Popery*, and *Prophanity*. In all which, We expect to hear of your Care and Performance, and so We bid you Heartily farewell;

Given at Our Court at Kensington, *the fifth Day of* January 169⅞. and of Our Reign the ninth year.

By His Majestie's Command.

Tullibardine.

To the Right Reverend, and Well Beloved, The *Ministers, and Elders, Commissioners of the General Assemebly of the Church of Our Ancient Kingdome of* Scotland.

III.

The General Assemblies Answer, TO His *Majesties* Gracious Letter

Edinburgh, 13. January 1698. Sess. 3.

May it please Your Majesty,

THE Satisfaction Your Majesty Vouchsafes to signifie by Your most Gracious Letter to this Assembly, with the proceedings of the former; Your Majesties renewed Assurances of Your Protection, and Countenance to the *Presbyterian Government*, now settled in this Church, and Your having agreed to our Meeting at this time, when so many other weighty Affairs call forth and employ your Royal Care, Do lay such Obligations on Us to Our Duty, as We shall endeavour better to express our Sense thereof, in the Course of our Actings, then now We are able to do by Words.

Nor is it One of the least Testimonies of Your *Majesties* Fatherly Regard to this Church, That as you have formerly Recommended, and encouraged the suppressing and restraining of all Vice and Prophanity, So Your Majesty doth now testify a special Concern, for planting a well qualified Ministry in those Places that want it, and that You are pleased to excite Us to a cheerful Management of all the Matters that lye before us, by the continued Choice of the Lord *Carmichael*, to represent Your Royal PERSON now again in this Assembly, whose unblemished Faithfulness, and steddy Zeal to Your Majesties Service, joined with a constant good Affection to this Church, have always very signally, and to us most obligeingly appeared.

The General Assembly is still ready to assume such Ministers as served under the late *Prelacy*, whose Lives and Doctrines render them useful in the Church, and who apply to them in the Terms and Methods proposed by former Assemblies

Assemblies, and shall recommend the same to Inferiour Judicatories.

In the planting of the *North*, such Progress as could be attained, hath been made since the last Assembly; and to proceed in this Good Work, and provide for the remote *Highland* Parishes, We reckon an important part of Our present Duty, and do resolve to apply Our selves thereto, with that Diligence, and so to demain Our selves therein, and in Our whole Conduct, through Divine Assistance, that We trust this Assembly shall not prove unworthy of the Continuance of Your Majesties Favourable Opinion of Us.

That the Great GOD, by whom Kings Reign, may dayly multiplie his best Blessings, upon Your Royal Person and Government, is, and shall be, the most sincerely affectionate and fervent Prayer of,

May it please Your MAJESTY,

Your *MAJESTIE'S* most Faithful,
Most Obedient, and most Humble Subjects,
The Ministers and Elders, mett in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in Our Presence, in Our Name, and at Our Appointment,

By

Geo. Meldrum *Moderator.*

IV.

IV.

To His Most Excellent *Majestie*,

The Humble ADDRESS, of the National *Assembly*, of the Church of *Scotland*,

Eadem Sessione.

May it Please Your Majestie.

AS the Commissioners of the former Assembly, under a Just Sense of duty, did Address Your *Majestie*, upon Your happy Auspicious Arrival to these Your Kingdomes, so We the present Representatives of this National Church, do now for Our selves, and in Name of that Church, which We Represent, with most humble Adorations, and thankful Praises to Our good God, Acknowledge His Inestimable Mercy to us, in sending Your *Majestie* to be Our Deliverer and Restorer, (a Blessing never to be forgotten by us, nor Our Posterity) in Conducting and Preserving Your *Majestie*, through the long Tract of a most Just and Necessary, but most Hazardous War, (undertaken to assert and Vindicat the Oppressed Liberties of Christendom) whilest you were Exposed to the most open and formidable Dangers, in keeping You safe, in the hydings of His own Power, and in returning You to Your Loving and longing People, Adorned with the best of Triumphs, (the Effect of Your deep Wisdom as well as of Your Matchless Valour) a Solid and Honourable Peace.

No Expressions can reach the fullness of Our loyal Hearts, upon this great Occasion, nor that sincere Joy that is raised in us, by the hopes of Your *Majesties* applying Your self with Christian Princely Vigour, to maintain that Holy Religion (given us by the God who hath called, upheld and Established You) to crub the Enormities of a Debaucht and Profligate Age, and to quell the monsters of Prophanity and Atheism, that have dared so boldly to bid defyance to Heaven, and all that is Sacred: From these doth arise Our greatest danger, lest Wrath be upon us from the God of Heaven; In subdueing these, a yet higher pitch of Courage, steddy Resolution, and true Greatness of mind is required, than in overcoming the greatest Armies, in the field of Battel. This Noble Atchievment, seems to be Reserved for Your *Majestie*, as the peculiar glory of Your now

peaceful Reign, both by Your Authority, and Royal Example to render Piety and Vertue in the eyes of the World (as indeed they are in themselves) the true point of Honour, and all impiety and Vice (tho in Persons of most elevated Quality and Station) matter of Infamy and Disgrace, without which no Effectual Reformation of degenerated manners, can ever be expected.

May the Divine Majesty, of whom is the Salvation of Kings, (who hath done wonders for You and wrought wonders by You, whose great and happy Instrument You are) long preserve, Richly Blesse and Prosper Your Majesty, and render You no less Illustrious, in all the Arts of Peace, then You have been in these of War; And when He shall have Served His own great and Gracious ends, by You in this World, may You be Translated to Inherite the Glories of that Kingdom of Purity and Peace, that can never be shaken. So We Pray, with the most Fervent Affection of dutiful and sincere Hearts, who are,

May it please Your MAJESTY:

Your MAJESTIES Most Faithful,
Most Obedient, and Most Humble Subjects

The Ministers and Elders, met in this National Assembly, of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in Our Presence, in Our Name and at Our Appointment.

By

Geo. Meldrum *Moderator.*

V.

Edinburgh 15ᵗʰ January 1698. *ante merid.*

Sess. 6.

Act, and Declaration, for Vindication of the Church of Scotland, *from the Calumny of* Thomas Gipps, *Rector of* Bury, *in a Sermon Preached by him.*

THE *General Assembly* of this National Church, being Informed, that the Presbyterians (particularly

cularly theſe of *Scotland*) are charged in a Sermon preached by *Thomas Gipps* Rector of *Bury* in *England*, now Printed and Publiſhed, as Corrupters of the Word of God, with deſign to ſupport the Peoples Power, in ſetting up Miniſters over themſelves, and that this Corruption is made by them, in *Acts* 6. 3. By cauſeing it be printed, *Whom ye may appoint over this Buſineſs;* inſtead of *Whom We may appoint*; And therefore the General Aſſembly, do unanimouſly Declare, That as they allow no Power in the People, but only in the Paſtors of the Church, to appoint or ordain Church-Officers, ſo they diſclaim the abovementioned Error of the Preſs, if any ſuch be found in any *Bibles* printed in this Nation, and do declare they do not own any other Reading of that Text, to be according to the Original, but *Whom We may appoint, &c.* Nor do they know, nor can learn, that ever any in this Nation, did publickly uſe, or apply that Text, to prove the Peoples Power in Ordaining their Miniſters.

VI.

Act for punctual ſending of Commiſſioners to the General Aſſemblies; and their Attendance dureing the ſitting thereof.

Edinburgh, 18. January 1698. *poſt merid.*

Seſſ. 8.

THE General Aſſembly, taking to their Conſideration, the Overture tranſmitted by the laſt Aſſembly to Presbytries, anent punctual ſending of Commiſſioners to General Aſſemblies, and their Attendance dureing the ſitting thereof; and having heard the Report of the ſeveral Commiſſioners from Presbytries, to whom the Conſideration of the ſame was recommended, in order to its being more ripely adviſed, and determined in this Aſſembly: The General Aſſembly do appoint Presbytries to chuſe their Commiſſioners for the General Aſſembly, a competent time before the ſitting thereof, at leaſt fourty days, and that each General Aſſembly appoint a Committee of Cenſures to cognoſce upon the dates of Commiſſions, and the attendance of theſe Commiſſioned; To the end, that ſuch Presbytries as do not make

their

their Election in due time; As likeways, such Commissioners as does not attend duely from the beginning, and through the whole Dyets of the General Assembly, and the Committees which they may be put upon, not having a relevant excuse, may be censured as the General Assembly shall think fit: And lastly, the General Assembly recommends to Presbytries, to chuse such Ruling Elders to be their Commissioners, as may attend; and seriously to exhort them when chosen, to make Conscience of attending upon General Assemblies; and recommends the punctual Observance of *Act* 4. General Assembly 1694. anent the giving in Commissions, and making up the Rolls the night before the Assembly meet, or the next morning, for which purpose, the Clerk is to attend in the Assembly House, at that time.

VII.

Act anent the Deficients in supplying the North.

Edinburgh, 21. January 1698. *post merid.*

Sess. 12.

THE General Assembly having enquired, how the *6th* Act of the last Assembly, anent these Ministers, who had not obeyed the Appointment of the Assembly 1696. concerning the Mission to the *North*, was observed; and Mr. *Joseph Drew*, Minister at *New Monkland*, being heard, his Excuse for not going (hitherto) was sustained; But he is appointed to fulfill the time of his Mission, conform to the said Act, and if there be any inevitable impediments in his way, Appoints the Presbytrie of *Hamilton* to send one in his room, and that the Commission see this done: And farder, Referrs to the Commission, to see the Presbytrie of *Paisley* fulfill the time of the Mission of their two Ministers, conform to the said Act of the last Assembly. And lastly, referrs to the said Commission, to enquire, how the Supplies, appointed by the last Assembly, were sent up; And likeways, to see that any Supplies that shall be appointed by this Assembly, be punctually sent, from the several Synods, and to censure the Deficients.

VIII.

VIII.

Act approving Overtures for Planting of the North.

Eadem Sessione.

SEing the Mission of the fourty four Ministers, hath so far come short of the designed Transportation of Actual Ministers from the *South* to the *North*, and the necessity of that Countrey continues, The Assembly declares that Twelve Ministers shall be Transported from the *South*, to some of the following Posts, (Which are either Considerable in themselves, or by reason of their Circumstances, necessarly to be speedily supplyed) now Vacant; Three of the saids Ministers to the Province of *Angus and Mearns*, To any of the Posts following viz. *Montrose*, *Breichen*, *Migle*, *Eliot*, *Longforgan*, *Farnall*, or *Fettereso*. Six of them, to the Province of *Aberdeen*, To any of these Posts following viz. *New* and *Old Aberdeen*, *Peterhead*, *Foveran*, *Raffin*, *Mortblick*, *Boyndy*, *Upperbanchorie*, *Oven* or *Old Meldrum*, and three to the Province of *Murray*, To any of these Posts following viz *Inverness*, *Elgine*, *Duffus*, or *Keith*.

That in Order to the above end, the Presbytries in the forsaid Provinces, Endeavour to get ordinary Calls; and in case these Parishes abovementioned shall neglect to give the same, the Assembly declares, that Calls by the Presbytrie of the Bounds, to which any of these places belongs, shall be sustained sufficient, the said Presbytrie attesting, that there are probable grounds That the People will submit, to the Ministry of the Minister so Called, when settled among them: And the Person thus Called, is to be looosed and Transported according to the methode proposed By the last Assembly in the Overtures Contained Act 16. Only where it is granted by the Last Assembly, That such Calls should be pursued by the Kirk-Agent or his Deputs, This Assembly allowes also a Commission from the Parish or Presbytrie Calling, To be sufficient to any other person whatsoever, To pursue the said Transportation, And the *General Assembly* does seriously Recommend it to the Ministers of the *North*, To use all Tenderness and Caution, as to the Seats of *Universities*, The Actual Residences of *Noblemen*, and Principal *Royal Burghs*: and that, before they proceed to Moderate a Call, to

any of these Twelve Ministers, thus to be Transported, they consult, with some of the most Prudent and Experienced men, in the same Synod to which the Minister Called Belongs. And on the other hand, the Assembly seriously Recommends to these Presbytries, Synods and Commission, who shall have occasion to Judge in any of these Transportations, That they consider the Clamant Condition of the *North*, And that in Effect the competition, betwixt the Parishes called from and called to, be not reckoned; But between the parish called from and the necessitous condition of the *North*: And that they consider the many disappointments the *North* hath met with already.

4. The Assembly further declares, That these *Twelve Ministers*, thus to be Transported, are to be taken out of the *Synods* aftermentioned viz. *five of them out of the synod of Glasgow and Aire*; *four* of them *out of the Synod of Lauthian and Tweeddale*, *two* of them out of the Synod of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, and *one* of them out of the *two Eastern Presbytries of* the Synod of *Fyffe* viz. the Presbytries *of Coupar* and *St. Andrews*.

5. That the Assembly Nominate *Twenty Probationers* to go immediatly to the *North*, and these Probationers born in the *North*, to be named in the first place; And to help to Defray the Charges of their Journey thither, that they be allowed each of them *one hundred Merks* out of the Kings Gift, for defraying the publict Expences of the Church; Beside the allowance given by Act of Parliament to Preachers in Vacant Congregations, and to these who goe to *Orknay Two hundred Merks*. And that five of these be sent, to supply the Vacancies of the Synod of *Aberdeen*, *four* of them to supply the Vacancies of the Synod of *Angus and Mernes*, *four* of them, to supply the Vacancies of *Murray*, *two* of them to supply *Ross*, *Southerland and Caithness*; and *Two to Orknay*, *and three* of them to supply *Perth*, *Auchterarder*, and *Dunkeld* Vacancies, and all of them to continue in the *North* for a Twelvemoneth. And its hereby Refer'd to the Commission, to be appointed by this Assembly, to consider and determine, what Probationers are to goe to these Respective provinces abovementioned, together with the time of their stay and abode in each Province. Which Twenty Probationers, are hereby obliedged to accept of Calls, whether Popular, or Presbyterial, when presented to them by the Presbytries of any of the saids Provinces, With certification if they refuse the same, The Presbytries, within whose Bounds they are Called, shall have power to take their Licence from them, until the next Assembly.

6. This Assembly doth hereby continue the former supplyes

plys of the *North*, by the Synods of the *South*, Granted by the fourteinth Act of the last Assembly, Defaulking only three Ministers of the eighteen formerly allowed, five of which are to supply *Aberdeen* Province, four to supply *Murray*, three to supply *Angus*, and *Merues*, one to supply *Ross*, *Sutherland*, and *Caithness* and two to supply *Perth*, *Auchterarder* and *Dunkeld*: Unto which supply the Synods expreſt in the foreſaid Act, are lyable in the way and manner thereinexpreſt. And becauſe there are three of the number taken doun, the Synods of *Dumfreis* and *Galloway*, with the Presbytries of *Stirling*, and *Dumblain*, are Exempted from the ſaid ſupply.

7. It is Overtur'd, that a numerous *Commiſſion*, be appointed By this Aſſembly, with power to them, to divide themſelves, into as many *Committees* as they ſhall ſee fit; and to ſend them to any Parts of this Church *South*, or *North*; Which Commiſſion is to meet Quarterly, and when or where they ſhall ſee cauſe. And that all the members thereof, ſhall give punctual attendance, at the ſaid Quarterly meetings, and an exact account to be taken of the abſents therefrom.

8. That it be Recomended to ſome to name and draw up a liſt of the members of the ſaid Commiſſion, and to draw up Inſtructions to be given unto them.

That the ſaids Commitees to be appointed by the General Commiſſion have power to viſite the bounds they are ſent unto, and to receive Complaints from Presbytries, and redreſs Greivances of particular Miniſters or Presbytries, and to inflict Cenſures, and to do every other thing, Competent to Viſitations; The Presbytrie of the bounds, where the ſaid Committee ſhall come, being alwayes to be Reckoned members thereof, while within their Bounds.

The General Aſſembly approves of the Overtures above-writen.

IX.

Act anent the Printed Overtures, concerning the Diſcipline, and Method of Proceeding in Eccleſiaſtick Judicatories, offered to the laſt Aſſembly, by a private Hand.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly having heard and conſidered the Opinion, of the Commiſſion of the laſt Aſſembly dated

dated the *5th*, day of *Ianuarij instant*, anent the Overtures concerning Church Diſcipline, and the method of proceeding in Eccleſiaſtick Judicatories; As alſo having heard the Report of a Committee of this Aſſemblies own Number, appointed to conſider the ſame, The General Aſſembly thinks fit to appoint, and hereby appoints, Mr. *Gilbert Rule* Principal of the Colledge of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *William Dunlop* Principal of the Colledge of *Glaſgow*, Mr. *Robert Wylie* Miniſter at *Hamilton*, Mr *George Meldrum*, and Mr. *William Crichton* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. *John Veitch*, Mr. *Andrew Cameron*, and Mr. *George Barcley* Miniſters; Sir *James Stewart* His Majeſties Advocat, *Adam Cockburn* of *Ormiſtoun* Lord Juſtice Clerk, and Sir *Colin Campbel* of *Aberuchle* One of the Senators of the Colledge of Juſtice Ruling Elders, to be a Committee for conſidering the ſaids Overtures, and the Animadverſions made thereupon, and compare them with the *Word of God*, *Books of Diſcipline*, *and Acts of the General Aſſemblies of this Church*, and to conſider what is wanting, or to be added thereto, or altered therein, and to ſet out a new Edition of the ſaid Overtures, that the ſeveral Presbytries may have opportunity to animadvert thereon, and appoints them to ſend their Judgement thereanent to the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, who are to prepare the ſame againſt the next General Aſſembly.

X.

Approbation of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commiſſion, appointed by the late General Aſſembly.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly, having this day had reproduced in their preſence, the Regiſter of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commiſſioners appointed by the laſt Aſſembly, and having heard a Report of a Committee of their own Number, appointed to Reviſe, conſider and examine the ſame, with their Obſerves thereupon, all the Members of the ſaid Commiſſion were removed, and the General Aſſembly having ſeriouſly conſidered the ſaid Report, and Anſwers made by the Members of the Commiſſion to the ſaids Obſerves, and finding thereby that the whole Actings, Proceedings, and Concluſions of the ſaids Commiſſioners,

miſſioners, contained in the Regiſter thereof, ſubſcribed by Mr. *John Moncrief* Clerk thereto, conſiſting of One Hundred and ſixty eight Pages; Do evidence much Wiſdom, Prudence and Diligence; and that the ſaid Commiſſion have proceeded orderly and formally in every thing, according to their Commiſſion and Inſtructions, and that the ſaid Regiſter is very accurate: Therefore this General Aſſembly, by an unanimous vote, Did, and hereby Do, Ratify and Approve the ſaids whole Actings, Proceedings and Concluſions, of the ſaids Commiſſioners, contained in the ſaid Regiſter thereof, beginning the 13. day of *January* 1697. and ending the 5. day of *January* inſtant, incluſive of both dayes.

XI.

Recommendation anent Subſcribing of Synod Records.

Edinburgh, 22. January 1698.

Seſſ. 13.

THE Genetal Aſſembly Recommends to all Synods, for hereafter, to take care, that their Regiſters be compleatly filled up, always before the ſitting of the General Aſſembly; And that the Proceedings of every Synod be ſigned both by the Moderator and Clerk thereof: And laſtly, appoints the Synod Books, thus filled up, and ſubſcribed, to be timeouſly produced to the General Aſſemblies yearly, in order to their being reviſed.

XII.

Commiſſion, To ſome Miniſters and Elders for Planting Vacant Churches in the North, *and ſome other Particular Affairs committed to them, by the General Aſſembly.*

Edinburgh, 24. January 1698. *ante merid.*

Seſſ. 14:

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, conſidering, that there are yet many Vacant Churches

on the *North* ſide of *Tay;* As Likeways, That there are ſeveral weighty Affairs, which this Aſſembly cannot now overtake: Therefore the General Aſſembly Finds it needful, That there be a Commiſſion granted to ſome Miniſters and Elders, for planting theſe Vacant Kirks, and doing what other Affairs ſhall be referred to them; And for that End, Do hereby Nominate and Appoint Mr. *Andrew Cameron* Miniſter of the Goſpel at *Kirkcudbright*, Mr. *Andrew Ewart* at *Kells*, Mr. *Robert Rowan* at *Penningham*, Mr. *Robert Campbel* at Stonikirk, Mr. *John Hunter* at Air, Mr. *James Gilchriſt* at Kirkmichael, Mr. *John Wilſon* at Largs, Mr. *Thomas Kennedy* at Ballantrae, Mr. *Andrew Fauls* at Fenwick, Mr. *Robert Wylie* at Hamilton, Mr. *George Clelland* at Shotts, Mr. *Thomas Linning* at Leſmehego, Mr. *John Scot* at Carluke, Mr. *John Banantyne* at Lanerk, Mr. *James Brown* at Glaſgow, Mr. *William Dunlop* Principal of the Colledge of Glaſgow, Mr. *Andrew Tait* at Carmunock, Mr. *Patrick Simſon* at Renfrew, Mr. *Thomas Blackwell* at Paiſley, Mr. *Robert Wallace* at Berrernock, Mr. *George Park* at Kilerne, Mr. *Walter Campbel* at Denoon, Mr. *Daniel Campel* at Kilmichael, Mr. *Samuel Nairn* at Errol, Mr. *Thomas Black* at Perth, Mr. *William Moncrieff* at Methven, Mr *John Tillidaff* at Dumbarnie, Mr. *William Spence* at Foſſoway, Mr. *William* Reid at Dunning, Mr. *William Chambers* at Moonzie, Mr. *Michael Potter* at Dumblain, Mr. *Alexander Douglaſs* at Logie, Mr. *George Turnbul* at Alloway, Mr. *John Forreſter* at Stirling, Mr. *William Dick* at Forgan, Mr. *Alexander Shiels* at St. Andrews, Mr. *William Moncrieff* at Largo, Mr. *John Anderſon* Principal of the Leonardine Colledge, Mr. *James Haddo* at Couper, Mr. *Archibald* Riddel at *Kirkaldie*, Mr. *William Mackie* at Markinſh Mr. *Samuel Charters* at Innerkeithing, Mr. *Allan Logan* at Torryburn, Mr. *John Spalding* at Dundee, Mr. *William Mitchel* there, Mr. *William Arrot* at Montrois, Mr. *James Oſburn* at Aberdeen, Mr. *Thomas Ramſay* there, Mr. *George Anderſon* at Tarves, Mr. *Patrick Innes* at Bamff, Mr. *Thomas Thomſon* at Turreff, Mr. *Alexander Forbes* at Dyke, Mr. *James Thomſon* at Elgin, Mr. *Hugh Anderſon* at Cromarty, Mr. *William Innes* at Thurſo, Mr *John Forreſt* at Preſtonkirk, Mr. *David Clunie* at Cockburnſpath, Mr. *John Sandilands* at Dolphington, Mr *Robert Horsburgh* at Glenwhom, Mr. *James Anderſon* at Lintown, Mr. *Andrew Mitchel* at Mannour, Mr. *Patrick Cumming* at Ormiſton, Mr. *David Walker* at Temple, Mr. *Matthew Selkirk* at Crichton, Mr. *John Shaw* at Newton, Mr. *John Brand* at Borrowſtonneſs,

rowſtonneſs, Mr. *John Kinaird* at Eaſt-calder, Mr. *George Barclay* at Uphall, Mr. *William Burnet* at Falkirk, Mr. *Gilbert Rule* Principal of the Colledge of Edinburgh, Mr. *George Meldrum* at Edinburgh, Mr. *William Crichton* there, Mr. *James Kirkton* there, Mr. *John Law* there, Mr. *George Hamilton* there, Mr. *John Moncrieff* there. Mr. *David Blair* there, Mr. *James Webſter* there, Mr. *David Williamſon* at the *Weſt-kirk*, Mr. *Thomas Wilkie* at *Canongate*, Mr. *George Andrews* at Preſtonpans, Mr. *Mungo Watſon* at Gladſmoor; Mr. *Alexander Colden* at Dunce, Mr. *James Ramſay* at Eymouth, Mr. *John Simſon* at Morbattle, Mr. *John Vetch* at Weſtruther, Mr. *John Hardie* at Gordon, Mr. *Gabriel Semple* at Jedburgh, Mr. *George Guthrie* at Oxnam, Mr. *James Noble* at Ecſoord, Mr. *Hugh Craig* at Gallaſhiels, Mr. *Charles Gordon* at Aſhkirk, Mr. *William Veteh* at Dumfreis, Mr. *John Paiſly* at Morton, Mr. *Thomas Sehiels* at Sanquhar. Mr. *George Muligm* at Moffat, Mr. *James Armſtrang* at Cannabee, Miniſters. *George* Earl of *Melvill* Preſident of the Council, *William* Earl of Craufurd, *George* Earl of Southerland, *William* Lord Roſs, *Robert* Lord Burleigh, *John* Lord Beilhaven, *John* Lord Carmichael. Sir *James Stewart* His Majeſties Advocat, *Adam Cockburn* of Ormiſton Lord Juſtice Clerk, Sir *Alexander Swinton* of Merſington, Sir *Colin Campbel* of Aberuchel, Sir *David Hume* of Croſrig, Sir *John Hamilton* of Halcraig Four of the Senators of the Colledge of Juſtice, Mr. *Francis Montgomery* of Giffen, Mr. *Hugh Dalrymple* of Northberwick, Lieutenant Collonel *John Erskine* of Caridden Governour of the Caſtle of Stirling, Sir *George Campbel* of Ceſnock, The Laird of *Grant*, The Laird of *Lamington*, The Laird of *Brodie*, Sir *Adam Gordon* of Dalpholly, Sir *Colin Campbel* of Arkindlays, The Laird of *Colloden*, Sir *John Clerk* of Pennycook, Sir *Thomas Burnet* His Majeſties Phyſician, Sir *William Denholm* of Weſtſhiels, Sir *Archibald Mure* of Thorntoun Lord Provoſt of *Edinburgh*, The Laird of *Meggins*, The Laird of *Torwoodlie*, The Laird of *Fulerton*, The Laird of *Humbie*, The Laird of *Eicht*, Mr. *Matthew Moncrieff* of Colſorgie, Mr. *James Craigie* of Dumbarnie, Captain *James Coult*, *Hugh Blair* late Dean of Gild of *Edinburgh*, *John Anderſon* of Dowhill, and *John Alardes* Baillie in *Aberdeen*, Ruling Elders: To be Commiſſioners of the General Aſſembly, to the Effect aſtermentioned, With full Power and Commiſſion to the ſaids Perſons, or their *Quorum*, Which is hereby Declared to be any Fifteen of the ſaids Commiſſioners, Whereof Nine are always to be Miniſters, to meet and conveen within the Aſſembly Houſe at

Edinburgh

Edinburgh, the first day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and afterward to meet the first *Wednesdays* of *March*, *June*, *September*, and *December*, and oftner, where, or when they shall see needful, during the continuance of this Commission; And the General Assembly requires all the Members of this Commission, to attend punctually the Meetings thereof, With Power to the said Commission, to chuse their own Moderator, and Clerk: And Siclike, The General Assembly fully Empowers and authorizes the saids Commissioners, or their *Quorum*, to consider, cognosce, and finally Determine as they shall see cause, in every thing, contained in, and conform to the Instructions given unto them by this Assembly, as fully and freely, as if the samen were in these presents at full length insert, and set down: As also, to Consider, Cognosce and finally Determine, in all References, Appeals and other Matters particularly Remitted to them, by any Act or Order of this Assembly; all which are holden as herein expreſt: And the General Assembly do hereby Prohibite and Discharge the saids Commissioners to meddle in any other matter, than what is contained herein, Declaring also, That in and for their Actings, they shall be comptable to, and censurable by the next ensueing General Assembly of this Church. And lastly, Declares, That this Commission shall endure until the meeting of the next General Assembly.

XIII.

Instructions to the Commission appointed by this Assembly, for Planting of the Vacant Churches in the North, *&c.*

Eadem Sessione.

1. THat this Commission do what in them lyes, to render Effectual the Overtures past in this Assembly, for more speedy Planting of the *North*, and Exerce all the Power that is committed to them for that end.

2. That this Commission, as often as they shall see cause, apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for their Countenancing of, and Concurrance with the Judicatories of the Church, in what the Law allows; Particularly for settleing Vacant Congregations, and Redressing any Grievances which may fall out,

3. That

3. That when any of the Ministers, who served under the late Prelacy, whose Lives and Doctrines may render them useful to this Church, Do apply for reception unto the Government, the General Assembly, in prosecution of the Assurances given to his *Majesty*, in their Letter Writen to him, Do Empower and recommend to this Commission, and the other Judicatories of this Church, That they be ready to receive them, according to the 13. Paragraph of the 16. Act of the last General Assembly:

4. That this Commission, in disposal of His *Majesties* Gifts to this Church, do particularly take care, That the Encouragement granted by this Assembly to the Probationers who are to go to the *North* to Preach, be rendered effectual; And that they cause defray the extraordinary Charges, that several Ministers of the *North* have been at, in carrying on the planting of the *North*, and other Publick Affairs of the Church there; And for the defraying the Charges of such Ministers, or Probationers, as shall yet be sent to *Orkney*, or other remote Places of the *North*.

5. That if the Commission shall see Cause to appoint Committees, upon occasion, for Visitation of particular Kirks and Presbytries, or Tryal of Persons, then the said Committees, as to Tryals, may proceed *usque ad Sententiam* but no farder; But that in that case, they report their Procedure to the Commission, who are to pass Sentence, as they shall see cause.

6. This Commission may likeways, on the desire of any Presbytrie, or Synod, send Committees, for assisting them in Visitation of Kirks within their Bounds, which Committees may be assisting to the saids Presbytries or Synods, either in Processes and Censures, if need be; or in Redressing the Grievances of particular Ministers or Parishes within their Bounds.

7. The Commission are to Cognosce, and finally Determine in all References made to them by this Assembly, and in all Appeals for Transporting Ministers to the *North*, which shall be orderly brought unto them, according to the Overtures thereanent, past in this Assembly.

8. This Commission is also to correspond with the State anent Fasts, and Thanksgivings, as occasion requires, and to specify the Causes thereof.

9. The Commission is to give Advice and Assistance to any Synod or Presbytrie in difficult cases, as they shall be applyed unto, by them for that Effect.

XIV

Act appointing ſome Miniſters to go for the ſupply of the North, *until the next Aſſembly.*

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, taking unto their conſideration that there are yet many Vacancies in the *North*, and that the Miniſters which are ſettled there, are not in a condition to ſupply the ſame, in a ſutable manner, Therefore they have ordained and hereby ordaines, that the Synods be *South Tay* alternamed, ſhall ſend to the Bounds of the Synods of *Angus and* Mernes, *Aberdeen*, Murray, Roſs, *Southerland, and* Caithneſs, and the Presbytries of *Perth*, *Auchterarder and Dunkeld* within the Synod of *Perth* The number of *Fifteen Miniſters every four Moneths.* according to the proportions aftermentioned viz. That *two* be ſent to ſupply the Vacancies of *Perth* *Auchterarder* and *Dunkeld*, *three* to ſupply the Vacancies of the Synod of *Angus and* Mearns, *five* to ſupply the Vacancies of the Synod of *Aberdeen*, four to ſupply the Vacancies of the Synod of *Murray*, and one to ſupply the Vacancies of the Synods of *Roſs*, *Southerland and Caithneſs*: And the Aſſembly declares that theſe above ſupply's of fifteen Miniſters be ſent every four Moneths by the Synods aftermentioned, according to the following Proportions, viz. That from the Synod of *Merſe and Teviotdale*, there be ſent *three*, each four Moneths, and that to the Synod of *Angus and Mearns*; The Synod of *Lothian*, ſhall ſend *four*, *two* of them to *Aberdeen*, and *two* of them to *Murray*, as the ſaid Synod of *Lothian* ſhall determine. That the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air* ſhall ſend *five*, viz. one to *Perth*, *Auchterarder and* Dunkeld, *three to Aberdeen, and one to* Murray; That the Synod of *Fyfe* ſhall ſend *three*, one to *Perth*, *one to* Murray, *and one to* Caithneſs, *Roſs and Southerland*, as the ſaid Synod of *Fyfe* ſhall determine. And further, becauſe it is neceſſary that the ſaids ſupplys, who ſhal go for the firſt four Moneths, ſhall be there ſo ner then the next ordinarly meeting of Synods therefore the Aſſembly appoints the Presbytries aftermamed to ſend a Miniſter to the bounds of the Synods aftermentioned to ſupply the Vacancies there, and that ſuch as ſhall be by them appointed be there, againſt the firſt Sabbath of *March* next

viz.

the Presbytries of *Chirusde*, *Jedburgh and Selkrig*, within the Synod of *Merse and Teviotdale* to send each of them one to supply the Vacancies in the Bounds of the synod of *Angus and Mearns*, That these five nominate already by the Synod of *Glasgow* to go in *March*, do go to their Respective Posts and that these appointed by the *Synod* of *Lothian and Tweeddal* to go in *March* do go to their Respective Posts appointed them, and lastly from the Synod of *Fyffe* the Presbytrie of *Coupar* to send one to *Ross*, *Southerland*, *and Caithness*; the Presbytrie of *Dumfermling*, *and Kircaldy* to send one to *Murray*, the Presbytrie of *St. Andrews* to *Perth*, *Auchterarder*, *and Dunkeld*: But in case that any of the saids Synods, have already appointed their supply's according to the Act of the last Assembly, and if in obedience thereunto any Presbytrie have already nominat the Persons who are to go, then and in that case, the Assembly doth hereby Homologate and Ratifie the saids appointments and Nominations, and hereby ordains all such, as either are already appointed or shall be hereafter appointed By Synods or Presbytries for this or the Succeeding four Moneths supply, that they repair to the Respective Bounds as above set down againſt their Respective times allotted unto them, and be directed by the Presbytrie and Ministers of the Respective Synods, they repair to, as to what particular Congregations, they shall apply themselves unto, and that for the space of four Moneths abovementioned viz. from *March* to *July* next; And the Assembly doth farder ordain, the abovewritten Synods in the *South* to send to the places and in the manner abovementioned a new supply of as many Ministers more, to continue from the first of *July next*, *till the first of November* following, and so forth ay and while the sitting of the next General Assembly; and the Respective Presbytries are to take care, that their Kirks be supplyed, according to the fourteenth Act of the last General Assembly. And lastly the Assembly ordains these Ministers, sent in supply to the *North*, to Catechise and do all appointed By the former Acts of Assembly under the Certifications contained in the saids Acts, and that they get and produce to their own Presbytrie, a Testimonial from the Presbytrie, within the Bounds where they did supply, of their having fulfilled their appointment, and of their Cariage and behaviour, during their abode in these Bounds, and the Assembly also declares, that these, named By the Synods or Presbytries in this supply who may be upon the Commission, this shall be no excuse for them, to elude the said appointments,

XV

XV.

Overtures againſt Prophaneſs

Edinburgh the 24. of January 1698. *poſt meridiem*

Seſſio 15. & ultima.

THE General Aſſembly, conſidering the Lamentable Grouth of Prophanity, Ignorance and Irreligion, that is too manifeſt in this Land, and the woeful Decay of the Life and Power of Godlineſs, with the ſmall ſucceſs of the Goſpel, that's to be obſerved every where, at this time, the General Aſſembly, in a deep ſenſe of theſe things, And for the Remeeding of them, do in the Firſt place, In the aw, and dread of God, Beſeech, Exhort and Require, all Miniſters, by the Coming of our Lord *Jeſus Chriſt*, and our gathering together unto him, That they take heed to themſelves, and to their Doctrine, and endeavour to be Enſamples to the People, in all Piety, Purity, and Holineſs, in all manner of Converſation.

2. That they be Frequent and Fervent in Secret prayer, for themſelves, and the People committed to them, Joining ſometime Faſting with prayer, and the General Aſſembly Recommends to Miniſters and Elders in their ſeveral Pariſhes, and Miniſters in their ſeveral Presbytries, to meet ſometimes together, in their Pariſhes, and Presbytries Reſpective, for private Faſting and Prayer and Conference anent the ſtate of the Church, and that part of it, in which they have ſpecial intereſt; with Reſpect to the grouth or decay of Godlineſs and ſucceſs of the Goſpel therein.

3. That Presbytries be more accurate in manadging their privy Cenſures, and that a day be ſet apart to that purpoſe only, and ſpent in Faſting and Prayer together.

4. That Presbytries be very Cautious, in admitting Intrants to the Miniſtry, and be accurate and exact in the Tryal, not only of their Literature, but of their Piety, Prudence, and former Godly Converſation, and Walk.

5. That Miniſters be painful in Catechiſing, frequent in Viſiting of Families, and in privat Perſonal Conference with theſe of their Charge, about the State of their Souls, and that Miniſters be more frequent in adminiſtration of the Lords Supper, and always Edifying in their Converſe, and Diſcourſe, and that they deal with Heads of Families to engadge

them to Piety, and a care to Reform their Families, and to ſet up, and to keep up the Worſhip of God therein; And in particular, that *Miniſters* endeavour by all Prudent and gaining Goſpel-methods, to engage Perſons of Honour and Power, to fall in love with Holineſs, and reckon it, as indeed it is, their greateſt Honour; And that in dealing with ſuch of them, as are vitious, an Humble and yet Holy *Boldneſs* and Zeal, be uſed in admoniſhing them, in order to their Recovery: And that herein Presbytries appoint ſome others of their number, to Concur with the Miniſter of the Place, as may be moſt for Edification.

6. The General Aſſembly Recommends, to Kirk-Seſſions and Presbytries, the Vigorous, Impartial, and yet *Prudent* Exercile of Church-Diſcipline, againſt all Immorality, Eſpecially Drunkeneſs, and Filthyneſs, Curſing and Swearing, and Prophaning the Lords day, which too much abound: And that they apply to the Magiſtrat, for the Execution of the Good Laws, made againſt Immorality and Prophaneſs.

7. For the more Uſeful, Edifying and Effectual Exerciſe of Church Diſcipline, The General Aſſembly Recommends to the Commiſſion appointed by them, to conſider the Printed Overtures of Church-Diſcipline, anent Cenſureing of Scandals, with the obſervations of Presbytries thereupon, and the Overtures given in at this Aſſembly anent publict Rebukes, and the Sentence of leſſer Excommunication, the way of dealing both with the Obſtinate and Penitent, and anent the Scandalous Neglect of Parents in vertuous Education of their Children, and the Debauchery of Youth at Schools: And to digeſt and prepare Overtures thereanent, to be printed and Tranſmitted to Presbytries, together with the Acts of this General Aſſembly. And its Recommended to the ſeveral Presbytries, to ſend in their Judgement and opinion thereanent to the Commiſſion, that theſe Overtures may be ripened and prepared for the next General Aſſembly, if they think fit to paſs them into Act.

8. That ſeing it is obſerved, that in Burghs, eſpecially theſe of greateſt Reſort, as *Edinburgh*, many ſit too late in Tavernes, eſpecially on the Saturdayes night, and men of Buſineſs, pretend they do it, for Relaxation of their minds; through which ſome neglect the publict Worſhip on the Lords day, in the forenoon; Others attend the Worſhip drouſiely: Therefore the General Aſſembly Recommends to all Miniſters, where ſuch ſinful cuſtoms are, to repreſent to the People, both publictly and privatly the Sin and Evil thereof, and to call them to redeem that time which they have free

from Buſieneſs; and to employ it for Converſe with God, about their Souls ſtate, and in preparation for the Sabbath, which will yeild more delight, then all Senſual pleaſures can do.

And the General *Aſſembly* Beſeecheth, and Exhorteth all Magiſtrats of Burghs, to be aſſiſtant to Miniſters in enquiring unto, and Reforming ſuch abuſes.

The General Aſſembly approves of theſe Overtures, and ſeriouſly Recomends them to the ſeveral Presbytries.

XVI.

Overtures againſt Popery.

Eadem Seſſione.

1. THat Miniſters ſtudy theſe Controverſies more.

2. That all due Endeavours be uſed, to unite Proteſtants among themſelves, ſeing the Adverſaries get advantage by our Diviſion.

3. That Miniſters endeavour faithfully to watch the Flock committed to them, and by publick Preaching, and private Inſtruction and Conference, to prevent Apoſtacy, that way.

4. That Miniſters deal wiſely, and convincingly with the Conſciences of theſe that have fallen to Popery, and other corrupt Principles, for their Recovery.

5. That, when other Means are ineffectual, Presbytries would proceed to Church-Cenſures, when they ſee it may be for the Edification of the Church.

6. That, according to the Acts of former General Aſſemblies, and Acts of Parliament, The Names of Popiſh Prieſts, and Jeſuits, and Traffiqueing Papiſts, and of theſe who have ſent their Children to Popiſh Colledges and Countries, be given in to each Provincial Synod, and by them tranſmitted, as Act, *Car. 2. Par. 3. Cap. 6.*

7. That the General Aſſembly apply to the Privy Council, for the vigorous Execution of the Laws againſt Papiſts, particularly Seminary Prieſts, Popiſh School-maſters, Miſtreſſes, Governours, and Pedagogues, and Popiſh Meetings; And for ſeing to the Training up of Popiſh Youth in the Proteſtant Religion; In all which, ſome Inferior Magiſtrates are juſtly complained of, as very defective, And that the

the ſaid Addreſs be preſented by ſuch, as the General Aſſembly ſhall appoint,

The General Aſſembly approves of theſe Overtures And ſeriouſly Recommends them to the ſeveral Preſbytries.

XVII.

Overtures for Planting the Highlands.

Eadem Seſſione.

1. THat Miniſters and Probationers, who have the *Iriſh* Language, be ſent to the Highland Pariſhes, and that none of them be ſettled in the Low Countrey, till the Highland Places be firſt provided.

2. That *Miniſters* and Ruling Elders, who have the *Iriſh* Language, be appointed to viſite theſe Parts.

3. That where in any Highland Congregation many underſtand *Engliſh*, and there uſed once a Day to be a Sermon in *Engliſh*, Presbytries be careful to ſupply them ſometimes by preaching in *Engliſh*; And that they Catechiſe them who underſtand not, by an Interpreter, when they cannot get one to preach to them in *Iriſh*: And that theſe, whether Miniſters or Probationers, who have ſomewhat of the *Iriſh* Language, but not a facility to preach in it, be ſent to theſe Places, for the Ends foreſaid; that by Converſe they may Learn more of the Language, and ability to Inſtruct therein.

4. That *Engliſh* School-maſters be erected, in all Highland Pariſhes, according to former Acts of Parliament and General Aſſemblies; And for this End, the General Aſſembly Recommends to their Commiſſion, to addreſs the King and Parliament, to take ſuch Courſe, for this, and other Pious Uſes, in the more *Northern* Highland Places, as is granted to thoſe of *Argyle*, and that as they ſhall think fit.

5. That it be recommended to Presbytries and Univerſities; to have a Special Regard in the Diſpoſal of their Buſſaries, for Educating ſuch, as it is hoped, may be uſeful to preach the Goſpel in the Highlands; And that the Commiſſion Addreſs the Lords of the Theſaury, and recommend the

ſame

ſame to the Town-Council of *Edinburgh*, and other Patrons for this End.

The General Aſſembly Approves of theſe Overtures abovewriten, And recommend and appoints conform thereto.

XVIII.

Overtures anent Proclamation of Banns.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly, being informed that ſeveral Abuſes have crept in, in the way and manner of proclaiming the Banns of Perſons to be married. Do for preventing of the ſame, Overture and Declare, That before any Proclamations be made, the Names and Deſignations of the Perſons to be married, and their Parents, Tutors or Curators, if they any have, be given up to the Miniſter of the Bounds, in which any of them live and reſide, that thereby it may be known, if their Parents and Friends give conſent thereto; And that the Miniſter, being ſatisfied herein, order the Proclamation to be made three ſeveral Sabbaths; which, when made, ſhall be immediately before Divine Worſhip begin, in the Forenoon, and the Perſons to be Proclaimed, their Names and full Deſignations, ſuch as they are deſigned by, in Writes or Contracts of Marriage, be fully and audibly expreſt; And that where there are more Churches Collegiate, in the Place or Town, the Proclamations be made, in all and every one of the Churches within the City or Town, where they, or any of the Perſons to be married reſide; And this to be atteſted to the Miniſter that marries them; With Certification of the Cenſures of the Church againſt the Tranſgreſſours herein.

XIX.

Act appointing ſome Probationers to go North.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE ſaid Day, the General Aſſembly taking to their conſideration their former Act, anent ſending Probationers

ners to the *North*, do Nominat and Appoint these Probationers afternamed, to go to the Provinces and Presbytries aftermentioned, *viz.* Mr. *William Chrystie*, Mr. *Adam Scot*, and Mr. *John Drummond* to the Presbytries of *Perth*, *Auchterardor*, and *Dunkeld*; Mr. *James Murison*, Mr. *Arthur Shepherd*, Mr. *George Weems*, and Mr. *Thomas Beril*, to the Province of *Angus* and *Mernes*; Mr. *Thomas Mitchel*, Mr. *David Anderson* and Mr. *John Warden*, to the Province of *Aberdeen*; Mr *Andrew Ker*, Mr. *James Woodside*, and Mr. *James Curry*, to the Province of *Murray*; Mr. *John Mcleath* to the Provinces of *Ross*, *Southerland* and *Caithness*. And because Mr. *Patrick Melvill*, and Mr. *Archibald Hamilton* were nominate for *Aberdeen*, Mr. *Thomas Frazer* for *Ross-Southerland* and *Caithness*; and Mr. *James Short* for *Orkney*, and that there were some Objections made by them against it. Therefore the General Assembly Refers to their Commission, to consider the saids Objections, and if they shall see Cause, to exeem them, and to name some other Probationers in their rooms, to go to the Provinces abovespecified, conform to the former Acts of this Assembly.

See the Commissions Act hereanent, after the Index of the unprinted Acts.

XX.

THE next General Assembly of this *National* Church, is to be held at *Edinburgh*, upon the Twenty day of *January*, One Thousand Six Hundreth and Ninety Nine Years.

The Assembly being closed, the Members were dismissed with Prayer, singing of the 133 *Psalm, and pronouncing of the Blessing.*

Collected, and Extracted, From the Records of the General Assembly, By Me,

J. Bannatyne, *Cls. Syn. National.*

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6. Act for punctual sending of Commissioners to the General Assemblies, and their attendance dureing the sitting thereof. 11.
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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Commiſſion appointed by the late General Aſſembly, having conſidered the Objections, made by ſome Probationers, Nominate to the General Aſſembly, againſt their going *North*, Do, conform to the Power given them, Nominate and Appoint, theſe Probationers afternamed, to repair to the reſpective Provinces following; *viz.* Mr. *John Gib*, Mr. *Peter Darline*, and Mr. *James Murray* to the Province of *Aberdeen*; Mr. *Thomas Frazer* to the Province of *Murray*; Mr. *John Thornborn* to the Provinces of *Roſs*, *Southerland* and *Caithneſs*; And this, beſides two Probationers yet to be Named for *Orkney*, and theſe already appointed for the *North*, by the 19. Act of the ſaid Aſſembly.

At Edinburgh 2. Feb. 1698.

The Commiſſioners appointed by the late General Aſſembly, Taking to their Conſideration what is committed to them by the 15*th* Act, of the laſt Aſſembly, have agreed to tranſmit theſe Overtures underwriten to the ſeveral Presbytries, conform to the ſaid Act, the Tenor of which Overtures followes.

Overtures, Concerning the method and form of the procedure of the Judicatories of the Church, againſt Scandalous Perſons.

WIth Reſpect to Scandals, whoſe Groſſneſs make it neceſſary, to bring the perſons guilty, oftner than once before the Congregation.

1. It is Overtured, that after they are convict before the Seſſion, that it be Judicially declared to them, that they have rendred themſelves uncapable of Communion with the People of God in the Supper of the Lord, and that they ought not be allowed to be Sponſours themſelves in the Baptiſm of their Children till the the Scandal be removed; and that they be appointed to appear in publick to be Rebuked for their Sin, whether they appear Penitent, or not: conform to the Inſtitution 1 *Tim.* 5. 20,

2. After a publick Rebuke, the Miniſter and Elders be at farder pains, in Inſtructing the Minds of the Scandalous Perſons, if Ignorant, in Endeavouring to convince their Conſcience, and to bring them to a due ſenſe of their Sin, and to an Engadgment, and ſerious Reſolution againſt all known Sin, and to the Performance of all known Dutie.

3. That the Seſſion, upon Satisfaction with their knowledge and ſenſe of their Sin, do admit them to the publick Profeſſion of their Repentance, in order to Abſolution.

4. If, after taking pains on them for ſome competent time for their Inſtruction and Conviction, they ſtill remain Groſly Ignorant, inſenſible and unreformed, the Sentence of leſſer Excommunication be publickly pronounced againſt them; from which they are not to be Relaxed, nor Admitted to make publick Profeſſion of their Repentance in order thereto, till the Seſſion be Satisfied with their Knowledge, Seriouſneſs and Reformation.

FINIS.

THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Conveened at *Edinburgh*, *January* 20. 1699.

Collected and Extracted from the Records, By the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH,

Printed by *George Mosman*, Printer to this CHURCH and Her ASSEMBLIES, *Anno Domini* M. DC. XCIX.

THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Holden and Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 20 day of *January* and ending the 4*th*. day of *February* 1699 years.

I.

The Recording of His Majestie's Commission, To the Lord CARMICHAEL, *for Representing His* MAJESTY *in this Assembly.*

At Edinburgh, January 20, 1699. Sess. 1.

THIS Day, The General Assembly of the Ministers and Elders of this National Church, being Conveened, There was produced to them, by a Noble Lord, JOHN Lord *Carmichael*, His Majestie's *Commission*, under the great Seal of this Kingdom, Nominating and Appointing Him to be His Majestie's High Commissioner and Representative in this National Assembly, which was publickly Read in their Audience, with all due Honour and Respect, and the General Assembly

ſembly Appointed, and hereby Appoints, the ſame to be Recorded in the Regiſters of this Aſſembly, therein to remain *ad futuram rei Memoriam*; The *Tenor* whereof follows.

GULIELMUS Dei Gratia, Magnæ *Britanniæ*, *Franciæ* & *Hiberniæ* Rex, Fideique Defenſor: Omnibus "probis Hominibus ſuis, ad quos præſentes Literæ Noſtræ pervenerint, *Salutem*, Quandoquidem Generalem "Eccleſiæ Conventum, Antiquioris Regni noſtri *Scotiæ viceſimo* die Menſis *Januarii* inſtantis teneri decrevimus, Noſque item abunde cupidi, quin etiam neceſſarium eſſe Judicantes in commodum dictæ Eccleſiæ, ut idem *Generalis Conventus* Die ſtatuto obſervetur, ſed rebus magni momenti alio vocantibus, dicto conventui intereſſe nequimus, Cumque Fideliſſimus & Dilectiſſimus noſter Conſiliarius *Joannes Dominus Carmichael*, perplurima præclara edidit ſpecimina de Facultatibus ſuis eximiis, & fidelitate inſigni, unde nobis abunde Satisfactum eſt, Quod ad munera ſummi Officii Infra mentionati rite Exercenda & obeunda, in finem ſupra expreſſum uſquequaque eſt idoneus. Noveritis igitur nos feciſſe & Conſtituiſſe, ſicuti per haſce noſtras patentes literas facimus & conſtituimus Eundem *Joannem Dominum Carmichael*, Supremum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium quoad Effectum infra expreſſum; Damus pariter & concedimus illi, Sacram noſtram perſonam, & Authoritatem Noſtram Regalem Repreſentandi, præſentiam noſtram ſupplendi, locumque noſtrum in dicto Subſequenti Generali Conventu, tanquam Commiſſionario noſtro in hunc Effectum, ſpecialiter conſtituto tenendi, omniaque alia ad Imperium & munus Commiſſionarii, pro Generali Eccleſiæ Conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in quovis reſpectu, quam Quilibet alius ejuſdem Supremi muneris & Characteris fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore retroacto facere poterat; atque ſicuti Nos ipſi perſonaliter præſentes facere poterimus, Pleniſſimam & Ampliſſimam noſtram poteſtatem & Commiſſionem. Quæquidem omnia & ſingula, a dicto *Joanne Domino Carmichael*, in hac noſtra Commiſſione proſequenda legitime facienda, Nos firmiter Approbamus, Rata habemus, & habituri ſumus. Omnibus & Singulis inſuper ante dicti Conventus & Eccleſiæ Paſtoribus & Presbyteris, & cæteris quibuſcunque hujus Regni ſubditis, cujuſcunque qualitatis & conditionis, ut dictum *Joannem Dominum Carmichael*, tanquam Supremum noſtrum Commiſſionarium quoad Effectum & modum ſupra mentionatum Agnoſcant, Revereantur, & dicto ipſius audientes ſe præbeant, ſtricte mandamus, & imperamus.

"Ac

"Ac denique hanc Noſtram Commiſſionem, a die quo "magnum Noſtrum Sigillum hujus Regni præſentibus eſt "appenſum, & deinceps hac Seſſione ſequenti Generalis "Conventus antedicti in vigore continuare declaravimus, "& per præſentes Declaramus, Saltem uſque dum a No- "bis revocabitur. In cujus rei Teſtimonium, præſenti- "bus Magnum Sigillum Noſtrum appendi præcepimus. "Apud Aulam noſtram de *Kenſingtoun*, ſeptimo die men- "ſis *Januarii*. Anno Domini Milleſimo Sexenteſimo "Nonageſimo Nono, Regnique noſtri Anno Decimo.

Per ſignaturam manu S. D. N. *Regis ſupraſignatam.*

Locus Sigilli Appenſi

IN DORSO.

Written to the great Seal, and Regiſtrat the eighteenth day of January 1699. Charles Ker. — *Sealed at* Edinburgh, *the nineteenth day of* January 1699. A. Home.

II.

His *MAJESTIE'S* gracious LETTER TO THE *GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

Eadem Seſſione.

THE which Day, His *MAJESTIE'S* High COMMISSIONER preſented His *Majeſtie's* Moſt Gracious LETTER, Directed to this *General Aſſembly*, which was publickly Read in their Hearing, with all due Honour and Reſpect, and appointed to be Recorded in their Regiſters, The Tenor whereof follows.

WILLIAM R.

RIGHT Reverend, and well Beloved, We Greet you well, We have thought fit to allow and Countenance your Meeting at this time, that you may have the Opportunity, to do what is neceſſary for promoting Religion, and Regulating Order and Diſcipline; And We do again earneſtly recommend to you, to fall upon effectual Methods for planting Vacant Churches, with Pious and Learned Miniſters, which is ſo neceſſary for ſuppreſſing Error and Immorality; In the doing whereof, you ſhall have from us all due Encouragement and Aſſiſtance. We have again choſen Our right Truſty and entirely Beloved Counſellour *John* Lord *Carmichael* to be Our Commiſſioner, and to repreſent Our Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly: and as We have ſufficient experience of his Fidelity to Us, and of his Abilities and Fitneſs to Diſcharge this Truſt; So we know that he is acceptable unto you. We have fully inſtructed him in all things that we think needful, and therefore you may give him entire Truſt and Credit. We are well ſatisfied with your proceedings in the former Aſſembly, and We doubt not, but your Management in this will be ſutable to Our Expectation, We leave what farther is neceſſary to Our Commiſſioner, and We aſſure you of Our Royal Protection and Aſſiſtance in all your Concerns, and ſo we bid you heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at Kenſingtoun, *the* 7th, *Day of* January 169⅘. And of Our Reign the Tenth Year.

By His Majeſtie's Command.

Seafeild.

To the Right Reverend, and Well Beloved, Miniſters and Elders mett in the General Aſſembly *of the Church of* Scotland.

III.

III.

The General Aſſemblies Anſwer.

TO

His *Majeſtie's* Gracious Letter

Edinburgh, January 24 1699. *Poſt Meridiem* Seſſ. 4.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

THE Renewed Teſtimonies of Your Majeſty's care and concern for this Church, ſo amply ſignified by your Gratious Letter, are received by Us with all Satisfaction and Acknowledgment; And cannot but engage Us to double our Diligence in Proſecuting the Duties of promoting Religion, Order and Diſcipline, Planting of Vacant Churches, and Suppreſſing of Error and Immorality, which Your Majeſty particularly Recommends, with the moſt obliging Aſſurances of all due encouragement and Aſſiſtance.

What Your Majeſty recommended to the laſt Aſſembly as to the Planting of the *North*; hath been minded by them, and their Commiſſion and Committees impowered for that effect, to the remoteſt parts of the Kingdom, and even to the Iſles of *Orkney* and *Zetland* with a conſiderable progreſs: And We are firmly reſolved to continue Our beſt endeavours for accompliſhing ſo good and neceſſary a Work; Nor can We omit to notice that Your Majeſties Royal Bounty, did very ſeaſonably contribute, to make Our Labours in that matter more eaſy and effectual.

Nothing can be more rejoyceing to Us, Then to ſee Your Majeſtie's Zeal againſt Error and Immorality, which make Us preſume to beg, for Your renewed Commands to thoſe concerned, that Your excellent Laws againſt Prophanity (that to Our great Greif ſtill grows) may be put to vigorous Execution, without exception, And we earneſtly pray and hope, that GOD who preſerved Your Majeſty, during a long and dangerous War, and Bleſſed Your Conduct and Valour, with the concluſion of a happy Peace; will ſtill ſupport, and aſſiſt Your Royal Endeavours, in reforming the manners of this Profligat Age, and preſerve You till that great Work be accompliſhed.

We

We do alſo acknowledge the good choiſe, that it hath pleaſed Your Majeſty to make of the Lord *Carmichael*, to repreſent Your Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly; whoſe faithfulneſs to Your Majeſty, as well as his kind affection to Us, do render him moſt acceptable.

That Your Majeſtie's Reign may be long and happy, that all Your Subjects may continually make ſuitable returns of Duty, and gratitude, for all the Labours and dangers You have undergone, for their Tranquillity: And that Truth and Peace may ever flouriſh in Your Dayes, are, and ſhall be the fervent Prayers of.

May it pleaſe Your MAJESTY,

Your MAJESTIE'S Moſt Faithful,
Moſt Obedient, and Moſt Humble Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders, met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in Our Preſence, in Our Name, and at Our Appointment. By

George Hamilton *Moderator.*

IV.

Act annexing ſome pariſhes to the Presbytries of Stranrauer *and* Wigton.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly having heard and conſidered, the Opinion of the Committee for Overtures; Did by their Vote disjoin the Pariſhes of *Ballintrae* and *Calmonel*, from the Presbytry of *Aire*, and annexes them to the Presbytry of *Stranrauer*; and likeways disjoines the Pariſhes of *Kirkmabreck*, *Kells*, *Dalry* and *Carſefairn* from the Presbytry of *Kirkcubright*, and annexes them to the Presbytry of *Wigton*, which Presbytry of *Wigton* may meet at *Monygaff* frequently, and this but prejudice to the Presbytries of *Air* and *Kirkcubright*, or any others concerned, to be heard againſt the Continuation of

of this alteration, at the next, or any other enſuing General Aſſembly: And it is appointed and declared, that this Act, as to the ſaid Diſ-union and Annexation, ſhall commence at the firſt day of *March* next to come, and the General Aſſembly ordains the Miniſters of the Reſpective Pariſhes above-named ſo diſ-joined and annexed, to be advertiſed hereof, and to give obedience thereto, as they will be anſwerable, and that Letters be written to the *Presbytries* concerned for that end.

V.

Act anent Proclamation of Banns.

Edinburgh, 25 *January* 1699. *Poſt merid.* Seſſ. 5.

THE General Aſſembly taking to their conſideration, the Overtures paſt in the laſt Aſſembly, dated the 24 day of *January* 1698. Entituled, *Overtures anent Proclamation of Banns.* The Tenor whereof follows.

The General Aſſembly being informed, That ſeveral Abuſes have crept in, in the way and manner of proclaiming the Banns of Perſons to be Married; Do for preventing the ſame, Overture and Declare, that before any Proclamations be made, the Names and Deſignations of the Perſons to be Married, and their Parents, Tutors, or Curators, if they any have, be given up to the Miniſter of the Bounds, in which any of them live and reſide, that thereby it may be known, if their Parents and Friends give conſent thereto; And that the Miniſter being ſatisfied herein, order the Proclamation to be made three ſeveral Sabbaths, which when made, ſhall be immediatly before Divine Worſhip begin, in the Forenoon, and the Perſons to be proclaimed, their Names and full Deſignations, ſuch as they are deſigned by in Writes or Contracts of Marriage, be fully and audibly expreſſed, and that where there are more Churches Collegiat in the place or Town, the Proclamations be made, in all and every one of the Churches, within the City or Town, where they, or any of the Perſons to be Married reſide; And this to be atteſted to the Miniſter that Marries them, with certification of the Cenſures of the Church againſt the Tranſgreſſours herein.

And the General Aſſembly, having heard the Report of the ſeveral Commiſſioners from Presbytries now preſent, to whom the conſideration of the ſaid Overture was re-

commended, in order to its being more ripely adviſed and determined in this Aſſembly; And finding that the ſeveral Presbytries were ſatisfied therewith: Therefore this General Aſſembly by their Vote, unanimouſly did, and hereby do approve of the ſaids Overtures, and appoints the ſame to have the full force, and ſtrength of an Act of the General Aſſembly, in all time coming, and that none may pretend Ignorance, Appoints the ſame to be intimate in all the *Pariſh* Kirks of this Kingdom.

VI.

Act of the General Aſſembly *anent a Solemn National Faſt and Humiliation.*

At Edinburgh, the 26 January 1699. *Poſt merid.* Seſſ. 6

THE General Aſſembly taking into their ſerious conſideration, That the many grievous and moſt hainouſly aggravated *Sins* and *Abominations* abounding and ſtill continuing in this Land, have procured and drawn from the hands of the Juſt and Holy LORD, the Lamentable ſtroak of *Dearth*, and *Unſeaſonable Weather* in Seed Time and Harveſt, which as it hath redacted many Families of the Nation already into great Straits, ſo if Mercy prevent not, threatens dreadful Famine: As likeways conſidering the ſadly diſtreſſed ſtate of ſome of the *Reformed Churches Abroad*, under *Grievous Perſecution*, and the *Dangerous Condition* of others of them, which loudly call for our humbling our ſelves for our own Sins, and for ſympathy with others, and frequent Prayer for our ſelves and them: Have therefore thought it a neceſſary and ſeaſonable Duty, to ſet a part, and hereby do ſet a part, and appoint the Day of *March* next being *Thurſday*, for Solemn Humiliation and Prayer, That GOD would pardon our Sins, turn away and avert his Wrath from this and other Churches, Command Deliverance for his Afflicted People under perſecution, Bleſs and preſerve Our *King*, under whoſe Government we enjoy ſo much peace, and Tranquillity and Liberty of Goſpel Ordinances, diſpenſed with purity and freedom; That God may continue the ſame with Us, and Bleſs the Goſpel with ſucceſs, grant a Seaſonable Seed time, and Bleſs the Seed with Encreaſe, that the Poor may be ſatisfied with Bread; Obteſting and beſeeching all Ranks of Perſons to ſearch and try their ways, and by unfeigned Repentance

pentance and Reformation, turn to the Lord with all their Heart, that the Lord may return to us, and have Mercy upon us and the Land, and it is most seriously Recommended to all Ministers, to be very explicite and particular in the acknowledgement of the National, and Epidemick crying Sins, especially these that seem to abound in the Respective places, where Ministers serve. And the General Assembly ordains all Ministers to intimate this publickly from the Pulpit a Sabbath or two before the said day of Humiliation. And lastly the General Assembly appointed, and hereby appoints Mr. *William Duplop*, Mr. *George Meldrum*, Mr. *John Law*, Mr. *Thomas Wilkie*, Mr. *Gabriel Semple* Ministers, Mr. *John Campbel* Brother to the Earl of *Argyle*, Sir *John Riddel* of that Ilk, Sir *Thomas Kilpatrick* of *Closburn*, and *John Alexander* of *Black-House* Ruling Elders, to apply to the Lords of his Majesties Privy Council, for their Civil Sanction to the observation of the said Fast, and leaves it to their Lordships to name the day of the Moneth of *March*, for the said Fast.

VII.

Act against Prophaneſs,

At Edinburgh 30 January 1699. *Ante merid.* Sef. 9.

THE General Assembly taking to their consideration, the Overtures against Prophanneſs, past by the last Assembly *January* 24. 1698. *Sef.* 15. And having heard the Report of Commissioners present, from the several Presbytries of this National Church, to whom the consideration of the saids Overtures were recommended; And the General Assembly being well and ripely advised thereanent, did by their Vote, and hereby do approve of these Overtures after mentioned, whereof the Tenor followes.

1*st*. The General Assembly considering the Lamentable Grouth of Prophanity, Ignorance and Irreligion, that is too manifest in this Land, and the woful Decay of the Life and Power of Godlineſs, with the small Succeſs of the Gospel, that's to be observed every where, at this time, the General Assembly, in a deep sense of these things, And for the Removeing of them, do in the First place, In the

aw,

aw, and dread of GOD, Beſeech, Exhort and Require, all Miniſters, by the Coming of our LORD *Jeſus Chriſt*, and our gathering together unto him, That they take heed to themſelves, and to their Doctrine, and endeavour to be Enſamples to the People, in all Piety, Purity, and Holineſs, in all manner of Converſation.

2. That they be Frequent and Fervent in Secret prayer, for themſelves, and the People committed to them, Joining ſometime Faſting with prayer. And the General Aſſembly Recommends to Miniſters, and Elders in their ſeveral Pariſhes, and Miniſters in their ſeveral Presbytries, to meet ſometimes together in their Pariſhes, and Presbytries Reſpective, for private Faſting and Prayer and Conference anent the ſtate of the Church, and that part of it, in which they have ſpecial intereſt; with Reſpect to the Grouth or Decay of Godlineſs, and Succeſs of the Goſpel therein.

3. That Presbytries, be more Acturate in managing their privy Cenſures, and that a day be ſet apart to that purpoſe only, and ſpent in Faſting and Prayer together.

4. That Presbytries be very Cautious, in admitting Intrants to the Miniſtry, and be Accurate and Exact in the Tryal, not only of their Literature, but of their Piety, Prudence, and former Godly Converſation and Walk.

5. That Miniſters be painful in Catechiſing, frequent in Viſiting of Families, and in privat Perſonal Conference with theſe of their Charge, about the State of their Souls, and that Miniſters be more frequent in adminiſtration of the Lords Supper, and alwiſe Edifying in their Converſe and Diſcourſe, and that they deal with Heads of Families to engage them to Piety, and a care to Reform their Families, and to ſet up, and to keep up the Worſhip of GOD therein; And in particular, that Miniſters endeavour by all Prudent and gaining Goſpel methods, to engage Perſons of Honour and Power to fall in love with Holineſs, and reckon it, as in deed it is, their greateſt Honour; And that in dealing with ſuch of them, as are Vitious, an Humble and yet Holy Boldneſs and Zeal, be uſed in admoniſhing them, in order to their Recovery: And that herein Presbytries appoint ſome others of their number, to Concur with the Miniſter of the place as may be moſt for Edification.

6. The General Aſſembly Recommends, to the Kirk Seſſions and Presbytries, the Vigorous, Impartial, and yet Prudent Exerciſe of Church-Diſcipline againſt all Immorality, Eſpecially Drunkeneſs, and Filthyneſs, Curſing and Swearing, and Prophaning the Lords day, which too much abound: And that they apply to the Magiſtrat, for the Ex-

Execution of the Good Lawes, made against Immorality and Prophanneſs,

7. That ſeing it is obſerved, that in Burghs, eſpecially theſe of greateſt Reſort, as *Edinburgh*, many ſit too late in Taverns eſpecially on the Saturdays night, and Men of Buſineſs, pretend they do it for Relaxation of their Mindes; through which ſome neglect the Publick Worſhip on the LORDS-Day in the Forenoon; and others attend the Worſhip drouſily: Therefore the General Aſſembly Recommends to all Miniſters, where ſuch ſinful cuſtoms are, to repreſent to the People both publickly and privatly the ſin and evil thereof, and to call them to Redeem that time, which they have free from Buſineſs; And to Employ it for Converſe with GOD about their Souls ſtate, and in preparation for the Sabbath, which will yeeld more delight, than all ſenſual pleaſures can do.

And the General Aſſembly Beſeecheth, and Exhorteth all Magiſtrates of Burghs, to be aſſiſtant to Miniſters, in Enquiring into, and Reforming ſuch abuſes.

And ſiclike the General Aſſembly, Revives the Act of the General Aſſembly, dated the 12*th*, *January* 1697. *Seſſ.* 8. Entituled Act againſt Prophanneſs, and approves of the Overture therein contained anent Cenſuring ſuch Miniſters and Members of Seſſions, as are negligent in purſuing Scandals.

And the General Aſſembly Recommends and Enacts, the punctual obſervation of the ſaids Acts and Overtures, and obedience thereto by all Presbytries, Miniſters, Elders and Seſſions, as they are concerned, in their ſeveral ſtations, as they will be Anſwerable.

VIII.

Act againſt Popery,

Eodem die poſt meridiem *Seſ.* 10.

THE General Aſſembly taking to conſideration, the Overtures againſt Popery paſt in the laſt Aſſembly *January* 24 1698. the Tenor whereof followes.

1*ſt*. That Miniſters ſtudy Popiſh Controverſies more.

2. That all due endeavours be uſed, to Unite Proteſtants amonſt themſelves, ſeing the Adverſaries get advantage by our Diviſion.

3. That Miniſters endeavour Faithfully to watch the Flock committed to them, and by publick Preaching, and private Inſtruction, and conference, to prevent Apoſtacie that way.

4. That Miniſters deal wiſely, and convincingly with the Conſiences of theſe that have fallen to popery, and other Corrupt principles, for their Recovery.

5. That when other means are ineffectual, Presbytries would proceed to Church Cenſures, when they ſee it may be for the Edification of the Church.

6. That according to the Acts of former General Aſſemblies, and Acts of Parliament, The Names of popiſh Prieſts and Jeſuits and Traffequing papiſts, and of theſe who have ſent their Children to popiſh Colledges and Countreys, be given in to each provincial Synod, and by them Tranſmitted as Act *Char.* 2. *Par.* 3. *Cap.* 6.

7. That the General Aſſembly apply to the Privy Council for the Vigorous Execution of the Laws againſt papiſts, particularly Seminary prieſts, Popiſh School-Maſters, Miſtreſſes, Governours and Pædagogues, and Popiſh meetings; and for ſeeing to the Training up of Popiſh Youth in the Proteſtant Religion; In all which, ſome Inferiour Magiſtrates are juſtly complained of, as very defective, and that the ſaid addreſs be preſented by ſuch as the General Aſſembly ſhall appoint.

And the General Aſſembly having heard the Opinion, of the Commiſſioners from the ſeveral Presbytries, concerning the ſaids Overtures, and finding that there was no objection made againſt any thing therein contained, and that application being made to the Lords of His Majeſties moſt Honourable Privy Council, conform to the ſeventh paragraph of the ſaids Overtures, their Lordſhips were graciouſly pleaſed to emit a Proclamation thereupon againſt papiſts; and the General Aſſembly being well and ripely adviſed anent the premiſſes: They by their Vote unanimouſly did, and hereby do approve of the ſaids Overtures, and appoints the ſame to have the full force and ſtrength of an Act of the General Aſſembly, and to be obſerved in all time coming, and ordains Application to be made to the Civil Magiſtrat conform to the ſaid ſeventh paragraph, as often as need requires.

IX.

Act anent Planting of the Highlands.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly took to their conſideration the Overtures paſt in the laſt General Aſſembly, *January* 24. 1698. *Seſſ.* 15. Entituled, *Overtures for Planting the Highlands*. The Tenor whereof follows.

1. That Miniſters and Probationers, who have the *Iriſh* Language, be ſent to the Highland pariſhes, and that none of them be ſetled in the Low-Country, till the Highland places be firſt provided.

2. That Miniſters and Ruling Elders, who have the *Iriſh* Language, be appointed to viſit theſe parts.

3. That where in any Highland Congregation, many underſtand *Engliſh*, and there uſed once a day to be a Sermon in *Engliſh*, Presbytries be careful to ſupply them ſometimes by preaching in *Engliſh*; and that they Catechiſe them who underſtand not, by an Interpreter, when they cannot get one to preach to them in *Iriſh*, and that theſe, whether Miniſters or Probationers, who have ſome what of the *Iriſh* Language, but not a facility to preach in it, be ſent to theſe places for the ends forſaid, that by converſe they may Learn more of the Language, and ability to inſtruct therein.

4. That *Engliſh* School-Maſters be erected in all Highland pariſhes, according to former Acts of Parliament and General Aſſemblies: And for this end, The General Aſſembly Recommends to their Commiſſion, to Addreſs the King and Parliament, to take ſuch courſe for this, and other pious uſes in the more Northern Highland places, as is granted to theſe of *Argyle*, and that as they ſhall think fit.

5. That it be recommended to Presbytries and Univerſities, to have a ſpecial regard in the diſpoſal of their Burſaries for Educating ſuch, as it is hoped may be uſeful to preach the Goſpel in the Highlands: And that the Commiſſion Addreſs the Lords of the Theſaury: and recommend the ſame to the Town Council of *Edinburgh*, and other Patrons for this end.

And the General Aſſembly having heard the Report, and the Opinion of the Commiſſioners preſent from the ſeveral Presbytries anent the ſaids Overtures; did by their Vote, and hereby do unanimouſly approve thereof, and

Appoints

Appoints and Recommends according thereto; With this Addition, that the Presbytries of *Dumbartoun*, *Dumblain*, *Auchterarder*, *Dunkeld*, *Inverneſs*, *Abernethy*, *Aberlouze*, *Tain*, *Dingwall*, *Dornock* and *Caithneſs*; are hereby enjoined, to have Burſers, who have the *Highland* Language, if they can be had, and that the Univerſities where ſuch Students are, be wrot to, to give an account what Students having that Language they know of, that deſerve encouragement, and that they recommend them to any of the above Presbytries, and that care be taken, that any ſo to be recommended, be piouſly diſpoſed, and of ſound Principles.

X.

Recommendation to Presbytries and Synods anent Schools.

Edinburgh, January 31. 1699. *ante meridiem.* Seſſ. 11.

THE General Aſſembly conſidering, that there are many good Laws and Acts of Parliament, and Acts of General Aſſemblies, for erecting Schools in every pariſh, And wayes laid down for maintaining thereof, and being informed, That notwithſtanding thereof, there are ſeveral Pariſhes, even in the *Low-lands*, that wants Schools; Therefore the General Aſſembly did, and hereby do, Recommend to the ſeveral Presbytries within this National Church to uſe their endeavours that Schools be erected in every pariſh within their reſpective bounds, conform to the Acts of Parliament, and General Aſſembly, and it's recommended to Synods to make particular enquiry how this Recommendation is obſerved.

XI.

Overtures for Planting the North, *with the Approbation thereof.*

Edinburgh, February 3. 1699. *ante meridiem.* Seſſ. 16.

THE which Day, there was read in preſence of the General Aſſembly, the Overtures underwritten, which were tranſmitted to the General Aſſembly by their Com-

Committee for Overtures, and upon the 31 of *January* laſt, read in open Aſſembly, and the conſideration thereof remitted to the ſaid Committee, and any perſons that had any thing to offer thereanent, were deſired to attend that Committee, and repreſent the ſame to them. The Tenor of which Overtures follows.

1, That any of the Twenty Probationers, Appointed by the laſt General Aſſembly, who have not obeyed, in going *North*, or not ſtayed in the *North* 12 moneths, but returned from it, without the allowance of the *Presbytry* of the bounds, where they were ſent, ſhall upon the deſire of that *Presbytry*, to the *Presbytry* where they now reſide, be ſent back to fulfil the 12 moneths.

2. That when any of theſe, who were born on the North ſide of *Tay*, are licenced by any *Presbytry* on the ſouth ſide of *Tay*, he be ſent *North* by that *Presbytrie*, within four moneths after his licencing, and it be remitted to the Commiſſion to appoint the place, to which he ſhould go, and the time of his ſtay, and that no Probationers born in the *North* ſide of *Tay*, be ſettled in any Congregation as Miniſter by South *Tay*, until the next General Aſſembly, unleſs they be of theſe who have been 12 moneths in the *North*, according to the appointment of the laſt General Aſſembly, but ſuch, who during the 12 moneths of their miſſion, having received no call from any Congregation in the *North*, are declared free to come *South*, and accept of an orderly Call from any Congregation in the ſouth ſide of *Tay*; It's alſo allowed to the Town of *Edinburgh*, that if they call any North Countrey Probationer, he may be ſettled in that City, notwithſtanding of this Overture.

3. And the General Aſſembly, hereby diſchargeth any Presbytry on the ſouth ſide of *Tay*, to ſettle any Probationer born in the North ſide of *Tay*, within the foreſaid time, except in the caſes above excepted; with certification, that the Presbytry ſhall be Cenſured by the Commiſſion or Generl Aſſembly, and the Probationer ſo ſettled is hereby declared *ipſo facto* tranſportable, and that the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly appoint him immediatly to repair to the *North*, and any place thereof they think fit, as an extraordinary Supply, and if a Call be given to him, the Commiſſion tranſport him to the *North*.

4. It's Overtur'd that other 20 *Probationers* be ſent this year to the *North* alſo, and of theſe Twenty, as many as can be had, of ſuch who were born on the North ſide of *Tay*, and that they be ſent in the proportion following, *viz.* Three to the Presbytry of *Perth*, *Auchterarder*

and *Dunkel*, Six for the Province of *Angus* and *Merns*, becauſe there are moſt Vacancies there, Four to the Province of *Aberdeen*, Three to the Province of *Murray*, Two to *Roſs*, *Sutherland* and *Caithneſs*, and Two to *Orkney*; and that there be a Committee of one or two out of each Synod to nominat theſe Twenty Probationers, or the ſame referred to the Commiſſion.

5. Thar theſe Probationers, ſo nominated go how ſoon poſſible without delay, to the places to which they are ſent, and to ſtay in the *North* for 12 Moneths, And it's hereby Referred to the Commiſſion, to be appointed by this Aſſembly, to conſider and determine of the Provinces, they ſhould go to, and of the time of their ſtay, and abode in each Province.

6. That for the encouragement of each Probationer, who ſhall be thus ſent, and to help to defray the Charges of their Journey, The General Aſſembly, do allow out of the Kings Gift, for defraying the publick Expences of the Church, to theſe who go to *Perth*, *Auchterarder* and *Dunkel*, 40. *lib.* each one, to theſe who go to *Angus* 50 *lib.* to theſe who go to *Aberdeen* 100 *Merks*, to theſe who go to *Murray* 80 *lib.* to theſe who go to *Roſs*, *Sutherland* and *Caithneſs* 100 *lib.* to theſe who go to *Orkney* 200 *Merks*.

7. That theſe Probationers be obliged to accept of Calls, whether Popular or Presbyterial, when preſented to them by the Presbytries of any of the ſaids Provinces, with certification if they refuſe the ſame, the Presbytries within whoſe bounds they are called, ſhall have power to take their Licence from them, untill the next Aſſembly, yet that it be recommended to all Presbytries, not to make uſe of a *Jus devolutum* for the planting any Congregation till all other means be eſſayed.

8. That beſides theſe Probationers, There be ſent from the Synods of the South, ſome actual Miniſters, for the Supply of the *North*: and ſeing diverſe places of the *North* are better planted than formerly, the number of theſe Miniſters to be ſent for this year, *for each four Moneths be Eleven*, in manner after following, Five to *Angus* and *Merns*, Four to *Aberdeen* province, Two to *Murray*, out of the Synods following, *viz.* From the Synod of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale* Two, to the Province of *Angus*; out of the Synod of *Lothian* Three, Two to *Aberdeen*, and One to *Murray*; out of the Synod of *Glaſgow* Four, Two to *Angus* and two to *Aberdeen*; out of the Synod of *Fife* Two, One to *Murray*, and One to *Angus*, and if the Commiſſion find it needful to ſend one to *Caithneſs*, they be empowered to ſend one from the Synod of *Lothian* for the Moneths of *April*, *May*, and *June*, and one from the Synod of *Glaſgow* for *July*, *Auguſt* and *September*.

9.

9. That when an orderly Call, is deſigned to any Miniſter on the South-ſide of *Tay*, by any of the places priviledged by the 8*th* Act of the laſt General Aſſembly, yet Vacant, the proces of Tranſportation may be carried on, after the ſame manner preſcribed in the ſaid Act, and the Aſſembly renewes the Recommendation, mentioned in the ſaid Act, to all Judicatories, who ſhall have occaſion to judge, in any of theſe Tranſportations, and that they have a ſpecial reſpect to theſe places priviledged by the Aſſembly, when they repreſent any Call; ſeing Miniſters are freed from the fear of Presbyterial Calls.

10. That in regard of the Vacancies of the Town of *Aberdeen*, and that place is ſo conſiderable, and of ſuch influence on the Northern parts, the General Aſſembly Recommends to the Synods of *Lothian* and *Glaſgow*, that at leaſt one of their Supplies each quarter, for the Province of *Aberdeen*, be a Grave and Experienced Man, ſuted for the Supply of the Town of *Aberdeen*, and that when the Town of *Aberdeen* preſents a Call to a Miniſter, before any Church Judicatory, they have a ſpecial and tender regard to the Planting of that place; and likewiſe the General Aſſembly doth Recommend to, and appoint Mr. *William Moncreif* Miniſter at *Largo*, to go and Supply the Town of *Aberdeen*, for the Months of *April* and *May*, and this over and beſides the ordinary Supply of that Synod.

11. That Mr. *Hugh Machendry*, and Mr. *John Macculloch*, be ſent to *Angus* or *Perth*, and have the allowance for their Journey out of the Kings Gift.

12. That it be referred to the Commiſſion, to ſend Mr. *Robert Burnet* to *Angus*, after *May* next.

13. That ſeing it is regrated by ſome who are ſent, as Supplies that they have much toill in Traveling, betwixt the Vacant Pariſhes of the Presbytries of *Strathbogie*, and Presbytrie Seat of *Murray*, Therefore the Aſſembly Recommends to the united Presbytries of *Turref*, *Fordyce*, and *Alfoord*, to take care of the Supplies of theſe Vacant Pariſhes, with the concurrence of Mr. *William Chalmers* Miniſter at *Gairtly*, untill the next General Aſſembly, but that the Planting of theſe Vacant Pariſhes, be with the conſent and concurrence of the Presbytrie of *Murray*; ſeing the Presbytrie of *Strathbogie* is within the bounds of the Province of *Murray*: And that it be recommended to the Commiſſion, to ſend up one Probationer more if they have need, and if any difficulty ariſe in Planting Pariſhes, it be referred to the Commiſſion.

14. That it be Recommended to Presbytries, to be careful that the allowance granted by the Act of Parliament to them who Supply the *North*, be punctually payed, and

and that the Presbytrie be careful, to provide commodious places for Miniſters and Probationers, where they may reſide, when ſent to Supply any Pariſh; ſeing they are to ſtay there for ſome time, and to Catechiſe the People according to *16th*, Act of the General Aſſembly *January* 12. 1697. *Seſſ.* 10. *& ultima* paragraph. 8.

15 That it be Recommended to the Synods of *Drumfrees Merſe* and *Glaſgow*, to Supply the Presbytries of *Wigtown* and *Strainawer* with Miniſters and Probationers, and that they be careful to ſend ſuch, as for Prudence and Piety, may be judged fitteſt for that Countrey, and that it be Recommended in particular to Mr. *John Good* Miniſter of the Goſpel, to go to *Galloway*, in caſe that he be not ſhortly ſettled in a Pariſh elſe where.

And the General Aſſembly having duely and maturely conſidered the ſaids Overtures, They by their Vote unanimouſly did, and hereby do approve of the ſame, and Recommends, Refers, and appoints according thereto, in all points.

XII.

Approbation of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commiſſion, appointed by the General Aſſembly 1698.

Edinburgh 3. February 1699. *Poſt meridem* Seſſ. 17.

THE General Aſſembly having this day, had Reproduced in their preſence, the Regiſter of the Actings and Proceedings, of the Commiſſioners appointed by the laſt Aſſembly, and having heard the Report of a Committee of this Aſſemblies own number, that were not members of the ſaid Commiſſion, but appointed to Reviſe, Examine, and conſider the ſaid Regiſter, with their Obſerves thereupon, all the members of the ſaid Commiſſion were removed, and Mr. *James Hutcheſon* was choſen Moderator, and Mr. *David Ewing* Clerk *Pro tempore*, (the Moderator and Clerk of this Aſſembly being members of the ſaid Commiſſion, and thereforeremoved) and the General Aſſembly, having ſeriouſly conſidered the ſaid Report, and Anſwers made by the Moderator and other members of the Commiſſion to the ſaids Obſerves, and finding thereby that the whole Actings, Proceedings, and Concluſions of the ſaids Commiſſioners, contained in the Regiſter

giſter Subſcribed by Mr. *John Moncreif* Clerk thereto, begining at page 169. and ending at page 354. do evidence much Wiſdom, Prudence and Diligence, and that the ſaid Commiſſion have proceeded orderly, and formally in every thing, according to their Commiſſion and Inſtructions, and that the ſaid Regiſter is very Accurate; Therefore this General Aſſembly by an unanimous Vote, did, and hereby do, Ratifie and approve the ſaids whole Actings, Proceedings, and Concluſions of the ſaids Commiſſioners contained in the ſaid Regiſter thereof, begining *January* 15*th*, 1698. and ending 18. *January* 1699. Incluſive of both dayes; and the Members of the Commiſſion being called in, the ſame was intimate to them, and the Moderator gave them the thanks of this Aſſembly, for their good ſervice, and then the Moderator and Clerk of this Aſſembly took their place.

XIII.

Act anent Subſcribing the Confeſſion of Faith,

Eadem Seſſione,

THE General Aſſembly Recommends, to all Synods and Presbytries, to enquire what Miniſters or Probationers or School-Maſters, within their Reſpective bounds, have not Subſcribed the *Confeſſion of Faith*, conform to former Acts of the General Aſſembly, as the Confeſſion of their Faith, That theſe who have not done it, may be put thereto, and thinks it neceſſary that there be a new impreſſion of the *Confeſſion of Faith* in Folio for that end.

XIV.

Commiſſion by the General Aſſembly to ſome Miniſters and Elders, for Planting of Vacant Kirks in the North, *and other Affairs Referred to them:*

At Edinburgh 4. February 1699. *ante meridiem* Seſſ. 18. *& ultima.*

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, conſidering that there are yet many Vacant Churches on the *North* ſide of *Tay*; as likewiſe that there are ſeveral weighty affairs,

which the ſaid Aſſembly cannot overtake, Therefore the General Aſſembly finds it needful, that there be a Commiſſion granted to ſome Miniſters and Elders, for planting theſe Vacant Kirks, and doing what other affairs ſhall be referred to them, and for that end, do hereby Nominat and Appoint Mr. *Andrew Roger* Miniſter at *Galſtoun*, Mr. *Henry Osburn* at *Tarbolton*, Mr. *Patrick Liſton* at *Air*, Mr. *John Galſgow* at *Kilbirnie*, Mr. *George Chalmers* at *Kilwining*, Mr. *Alexander King* at *Bonill*, Mr. *David Fleckfeild* at *Balfrone*, Mr. *Patrick Simpſon* at *Renfrew*, Mr. *James Hutcheſon* at *Killalan*, Mr. *John Stirling* at *Greenock*, Mr. *William* Dunlop Principal of the Colledge of *Glaſgow*. Mr. *Alexander Heaſtie* at *Glaſgow*, Mr. *David Ewing* at *Calder*, Mr. *Robert Wylie* at *Hamilton*, Mr. *John Murehead* at *Camnetham*, Mr. *John Bannatyne* at *Lanerk*, Mr. *Thomas Lining* at *Leſmehago*, Mr. *Daniel Campbel* at *Glaſſary*, Mr. *Walter Campbel* at *Denoon*, Mr. *Thomas Black* at *Perth*, Mr. *David Shaw* at *Aberdalgie*, Mr. *William Spence* at *Foſſoway*, Mr. *John Forreſter* at *Stirling*, Mr. *Hugh White* at *Larbert*, Mr. *Alexander Douglas* at *Logie*, Mr. *Michael Potter* at *Dumblain*, Mr. *John Anderſon* Principal of the *Leonardine* Colledge of St. *Andrews*, Mr. *William Moncreif* at *Largo*, Mr. *Alexander Shields* at *St. Andrews*, Mr. *Edward Jameſon* at *Monymail*, Mr. *Alexander Glaſs* at *Auchtermouchty*, Mr. *James Hadow* at *Couper*, Mr. *Archbald Riddel* at *Kircaldie*, Mr. *William Mackie* at *Markinch*, Mr. *John Shaw* at *Leſly*, Mr. *John Wylie* at *Saline*, Mr. *Samuel Charters* at *Innerkeithing*, Mr. *Allan Logan* at *Torrieburn*, Mr. *William Mitchel* at *Dundee*, Mr. *John Ramſay* at *Cortochie*, Mr. *Francis Melvil* at *Arbuthnet*, Mr. *William Arrot* at *Montroſe*, Mr. *James Oſburn* at *Aberdeen*, Mr. *Thomas Thomſon* at *Turrif*, Mr. *Patrick Innes* at *Bamf*, Mr. *James Brown* at *Aberdour*, Mr. *William Johnſton* at *Auchterleſs*, Mr. *Alexander Forbes* at *Dyck* Mr. *James Thomſon* at *Elgin*, Mr. *Hugh Duff* at *Fern* in *Roſſe*, Mr. *William Innes* at *Thurſo* in *Caithnes*, Mr. *Thomas Baikie* at *Kirkwal* in *Orkney*, Mr. *Hugh Leigh* at *Breſſay* in *Zetland*, Mr. *Gilbert Rule* Principal of the Colledge of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *William Crichton* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. *John Law* there, Mr. *George Meldrum* there, Mr. *George Hamilton* there, Mr. *David Blair* there, Mr. *John Hamilton* there, Mr. *John Moncreif* there, Mr. *David Williamſon* at *Weſt-Kirk*, Mr. *Andrew Bowie* at *North-Leith*, Mr. *Thomas Wilkie* in *Canogate*, Mr. *John Forreſt* at *Preſton-Kirk*, Mr. *Robert Stark* at *Stenton*, Mr. *Andrew Brown* at *Spott*, Mr. *James Clerk* at *Dirletoun*, Mr. *Mungo Watſon* at *Gladſmuir*, Mr. *Mathew Reid* at *Northberwick*, Mr. *William Trail* at *Borthwick*, Mr. *Patrick Cuming* at *Ormiſton*, Mr. *Mathew Selkrig* at *Crichtoun*, Mr. *David Walker* at *Temple*, Mr. *William Macjore* at *Pennycook*, Mr. *George Barclay* at *Uphal*, Mr. *William Burnet* at *Falkirk*, Mr. *Thomas Miller* at *Kirkliſtoun*, Mr. *John Brand* at *Borrowſtounnes*, Mr. *William Ruſſel* at *Stebo*, Mr. *Robert Livingſtoun*

ving stoun at *Bigger*, Mr. *John Sandilands* at *Dolphingtoun*, Mr. Mr. *Gabriel Semple* at *Jedburgh*, Mr. *Samuel Johnstoun* at *Southdean*, Mr. *Robert Wilson* at *Melross*, Mr. *John Gelen* at *Stitchell*, Mr. *John Dysert* at *Coldinghame*, Mr. *John Linlithgow* at *Swintoun*, Mr. *Alexander Colden* at *Duns*, Mr. *John Vetch* at *Westruther*, Mr. *George Johnstoun* at *Erstetoun*, Mr. *William Vetch* at *Drumfrees*, Mr. *Robert Paton* there, Mr. *James Elder* at *Keir*, Mr. *Thomas Gowdie* at *Kirkpatrick juxta*, Mr. *James Armstrang* at *Canabee*, Mr. *James Monteith* at *Borg*, Mr. *Robert Rowand* at *Pennyghame*, Mr. *William Boid* at *Dalry*, Mr. *Andrew Ewart* at *Kells*, Ministers. *George* Earl of *Melvil* Lord President of the Privy Council; *George* Earl of *Sutherland*, *William* Lord *Forbes*, *Robert* Lord *Burleigh*, *William* Lord *Ross*, *John* Lord *Belhaven*, *James* Master of *Carmichael*, Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* of *Northberwick* Lord President of the Session, Sir *James Stewart* of *Goodtrees* His Majesties Advocat, *Adam Cockburn* of *Ormistoun* Lord Justice-Clerk, Sir *Alexander Swinton* of *Mersingtoun*, Sir *Collin Campbel* of *Aberuchel*, Sir *John Hamiltoun* of *Halcraig*, Sir *David Home* of *Crosrig* four of the Senators of the Colledge of Justice, Mr. *John Campbel* Brother to the Earl of *Argyl*, Mr. *Francis Montgomery* of *Giffan*, *Lodovick Grant* of that Ilk, *William Baillie* of *Lamingtoun*, *James Brodie* of that Ilk, *George Home* of *Kello* Provost of *Edinburgh*, Sir *John Riddel* of that Ilk, Sir *William Cuninghame* of *Cuninghamhead*, Sir *Collin Campbel* of *Ardkinlass* Sir *John Pringle* of *Stitchel*, Sir *John Clerk* of *Pennycook*, Sir *William Denholme* of *Westsheils*, Sir *Archibald Mure* of *Thorntoun*, Sir *Thomas Burnet* His Majesties Phisician, Sir *William Baird* of *Newbaith*, Lievtenent Collonel *John Erskin* of *Carridden*, Captain *John Erskin*, *Adam Drummond* of *Meggins*, *John Alexander* of *Blackhouse*, *George Moncrief* of *Reedy*, Mr. *James Daes* of *Coldingknows* Advocat, *Henry Rollo* of *Woodside* Governour of the Castle of *Blackness*, *Walter Stewart* of *Pardivan*, *James Hamilton* of *Pencaitland*, *Robert Martine* of *Burnbrae*, *John Anderson* of *Dowhill*, and Mr. *Archbald Dickson* of *Tourlands* Ruling Elders. To be Commissioners of the General Assembly, to the effect aftermentioned: with full power and Commission to the saids persons, or their Quorum, which is hereby declared to be, any *Fifteen* of the saids Commissioners, whereof nine are alwayes to be Ministers, to meet and Conveen within the Assembly-house at *Edinburgh*, the first *Munday* after the dissolution of this Assembly, at Two of the Clock in the Afternoon, and afterwards to meet the first *Tuesday* of *March*, *June*, *September* and *December* and oftner, where or when they shall see needful, during the continuance of this Commission: And the General Assembly requires, all the Members of this Commission, to attend punctually, the Meetings thereof: with power to the said Commission to chuse their own Moderator and Clerk: and sicklike the General Assembly, fully impowers and Authorizes the saids Com-

Commiſſioners, or their Quorum, to conſider, cognoſce, and finally determine as they ſhall ſee cauſe, in every thing contained in, and conform to, the Inſtructions given them by this Aſſembly, as fully and freely as if the ſame were in theſe preſents, at full length inſert and ſet down; As alſo, to conſider and cognoſce and finally determine, in all References, Appeals, and other Matters, particularly remitted to them, by any Act or order of this Aſſembly, all which are holden as herein expreſt; And the General Aſſembly, do hereby prohibit and diſcharge the ſaids Commiſſioners to meddle in any other matters than what is contained herein: Declaring alſo that in and for their Actings, they ſhall be countable to, and cenſureable by the next enſuing General Aſſembly of this Church: And laſtly Declares, that this Commiſſion ſhall continue, until the Meeting of the next General Aſſembly.

XV.

Inſtructions to the Commiſſion appointed by the General Aſſembly for planting the Vacant Churches in the North, &c.

Eadem Seſſione.

1. THAT this Commiſſion do what in them lyes to render effectual the Overtures paſt the laſt Aſſembly, for the more ſpeedy planting of the *North*, and exerce all the Power that is committed to them for that effect, except in ſo far as they are, or ſhall be altered by this Aſſembly; And that they cognoſce and finally determine in all References made to them, by this Aſſembly, and in all Appeals for Tranſporting Miniſters to the *North*, which ſhall be orderly brought in to them, according to the above, or any other Overtures paſt in this Aſſembly.

2. That this Commiſſion, as often as they ſee cauſe, apply to the Government, or any Magiſtrate for their countenancing of, and concurrence with the Judicatories of the Church, in what the Law allows, particularly for ſettling Vacant Churches, Redreſſing any Grievances, which may fall out, and that they correſpond with the State, anent Faſts and Thanſgivings, as occaſion requires, and to ſpecify the Cauſes thereof.

3. That when any *Miniſters*, who ſerved under the late Prelacy, whoſe Lives and Doctrines, may render them uſeful to this Church, do apply for reception to the Government, the Aſſembly do impower and recommend to this Commiſſion, and

and the other Judicatories of this Church competent, that they may be ready to receive them, according to former Acts of the Assembly.

4. That this Commission may dispose of His Majesties Gifts to this Church, and in the disposal thereof, that they do particularly take care, that the encouragement granted by this Assembly, to the *Probationers* who are to go to the *North* to Preach, be rendered effectual, and that they cause defray the extraordinary Charges, that several Ministers of the *North*, have been at, in carrying on the planting of the *North*, and other publick Affairs of the Church there, and for the defraying the Charges, of such *Ministers*, or *Probationers*, as shall yet be sent to *Orkney*, or other remote parts of the *North*.

5. That this Commission, on the desire of Presbytries, or Synods, or as they shall see cause, may appoint Committees upon occasion, for visitation of particular Kirks, and Presbytries, or tryal of persons, and do all things proper for any Visitation. who are to Act in conjunction with the Presbytry of the bounds, and that they proceed to Censure as they see cause.

6. The Commission is to give advice and assistance, to any Synod or Presbytry, applying to them in difficult cases.

7. That this Commission enquire, who are defective in sending Supplies to the *North*, and see them fulfil their Mission, and that they endeavour, that the Supplies appointed by this Assembly, be made effectual, under the Certifications contained in Acts of prior Assemblies thereanent, and for this effect, that each Synod and Presbytry, send in quarterly to the Commission, an account of the names of the persons, they appoint for Supplies, and the places to which they are sent, and that another double thereof be each 4 Moneths sent to the Presbytry or Province to which they send.

8. That this Commission shall have power, to add to, or alter the Instructions given to the Presbytries of *Orkney* and *Zetland*, as they shall see cause, particularly with reference to Transportation of Ministers, because of the sad circumstances that some Ministers there are in, that they be ready to give advice and assistance to these *Presbytries*, as they are required, because they have not Synods in these bounds.

XVI.

Overtures for Promoving the Knowledge of God in the Highlands, *and for Rendering the Act made* Seſſ. 10. *of this Aſſembly, the more effectual*

Eadem Seſſione.

1 THAT each Presbytry, give up yearly to the General Aſſembly, a diſtinct account, of Probationers and Students of Divinity within their bounds, who have the *Iriſh* Language.

2. That enquiry be made, what Miniſters are ſettled in the *Lowlands*, who have the *Iriſh* Language, that they may be ſent on Supply to Vacant and *Highland* places, and if they get orderly Calls, they be Tranſported to the *Highlands*.

3. That ſeing a great number of Bibles, have been on the Charges of diverſe Charitable perſons in *England*, & ſome in *Scotland* Tranſlated and Printed in the *Iriſh* Language, and ſent down to this Kingdom, to be diſperſed, chiefly for the uſe of the poor, and many of them, are not yet diſtributed, and diverſe Pariſhes in the *Highland* parts, have gotten none of them, it be recommended to Mr. *David Blair* Mr. *William Crichton*, Mr. *John Law*, Mr. *Gilbert Rule*, Mr. *George Meldram*, Mr. *John Moncreif*, Mr. *George Hamilton* Moderator, and to the Earls of *Sutherland* and *Tillibardine* the Lord *Aberuchle*, and Laird of *Grant*, to enquire how many of theſe Bibles, whether Printed in the Roman or Iriſh Character are already diſtributed, and how and to whom, and how many does yet remain, and to make diſtribution of them, to different parts of the Church, in ſuch proportion, as may be moſt for Edification, and that they be delivered and diſtributed by the order of any three of this Committee, on ſufficient Receipt by the Receiver, and that Presbytries and Miniſters of each pariſh, be careful of the due diſtribution of what is received, and an account thereof ſent to the next General Aſſembly.

4. That it be Recommended to all, but eſpecially to Presbytries who have *Highland* pariſhes, to conſider what may be done for getting a Fond for a new Impreſſion of the Bible in the *Iriſh* Language, and of the Pſalms in meeter, and of the Shorter Catechiſme.

5. That ſeing it is Informed, there was 1000 *lib. Scots*, given by the Lords of His Majeſties Theaſury, for Binding of theſe Bibles, and other Charges anent them, it be Recommended

ed to the foreſaid Committee, or to the Commiſſion, to enquire to whom that money was given, and on what Terms, and how imployed, and if there be any of it yet remaning, after the Defraying of the Charges foreſaid, that it be allotted for the help of a Fond for a new Impreſſion.

6. That it be Recommended to the Synod of *Argyle*, to Tranſlate the *Confeſſion of Faith* of this Church, and the *Larger Catechiſme* in the *Iriſh* Language, the *Leſſer Catechiſme* and *Pſalms* being Tranſlated already in that Language, and that they exactly notice any Typographical Errors, which may be found in the late Impreſſion of the Bible, in the *Highland* Language, that they may be amended in a new Impreſſion.

7. That it be Recommended to the Synod of *Argyle*, that as they have done worthily hitherto, in Viſiting the Country and Iſlands within their bounds, ſo they would continue, and abound more and more, and be ready to aſſiſt their Neighbours, as they are called and have opportunity.

8. That there be a Committee, for Viſiting the *Highland* Pariſhes of *Dumbarton*, *Strivling*, and *Perth*, *Shyres*, of the perſons following *viz.* Mr. *John Anderſon* Miniſter at *Drymmen*, Mr. *Robert Anderſon* at *Perth*, Mr. *John Campbel* at *Monivaird*, Mr. *David Shaw* at *Aberdalgy*, Mr. *Alexander Dowglas* of *Logy*, Mr. *Alexander Diaing* at *Abernethy*, Miniſters, the Earl of *Tillibardine*, Viſcount of *Dipline*, Lord *Ruthven*, Sir *Colin Campbel* of *Aberuchle*, one of the Senators of the Colledge of Juſtice, the Laird of *Meggins* and *Lauchlan Mackintoſh* Elders.

9. And that the Synod of *Aberdeen*, at their meeting in *April* next, do appoint ſome of the Miniſters and Elders in their bounds to be a Committee, to Viſite the few *Highland* Pariſhes in their Province.

10. And that Mr. *David Cuming* Miniſter at *Edinkilly*, Mr. *Alexander Forbes* at *Dyck*, and Mr. *Donald Mackintoſh* at *Duthel*, Miniſters: together with the Lairds of *Grant*, *Brody* and *Collodine* Elders, with any other that the Presbytry of *Murray* may appoint of their own Number, to be a Committee to Viſite the *Highland* Pariſhes within the Province and Synod of *Murray*.

11. And that Mr. *William Innes* Miniſter at *Thurſo*, Mr. *Walter Denoon* at *Golpſie*, Mr. *John Monro* at *Rhe*, Mr. *John Macpherſon* at *Farr*, Mr. *William Stewart* at *Kiltearn*, and Mr. *Hugh Duff* at *Ferne*, with the Lairds of *Foulis* and *Dalpholey* and *William Roſs* of *Alaie*, be a Committee, to Viſite the *Highland* Pariſhes of *Roſs*, *Sutherland* and *Caithneſs*.

12. And that theſe Committees Viſite the Kirks, Manſes, Gleibs, and if need be *perambulat*, the Pariſhes, and conſider how they may be more commodiouſly divided, or annexed, or where there is need of new Erections, and how the ſame may be moſt conveniently accompliſhed.

13 And

13. And that they visit the Schools, within the saids Bounds, and endeavour to get Schools Erected, according to the Act of Parliament, where they are not, and apply to these, who have the care and charge of disposing of the Kings Gift, out of the Bishoprick of *Dunkeld*, or any other Gift His Majesty, may grant to other places, for that end, that where it is needful they may have more Schools in one parish where it's large and spacious, than these provided by Act of Parliament.

14. And that they do all and every thing proper for a Committee for visitation to do, and to Report their Diligence to the next General Assembly, and from time to time to the Commission appointed by this Assembly, who are hereby impowered to give them advice on all occasions, and to draw the several Commissions to the respective Committees to the effect above-specified, and appoint the time and place of their first meeting respective, with power to the Commission to add such of their number as they shall think fit, with power also to the above mentioned Committees, to chuse their own Moderators and Clerks and to appoint the diets and places of their after-meetings.

15. That the King be addressed for the effect of his Royal Munificence, in favours of the more Northern *Highland* places, as he hath done to the Synods of *Argyle* and *Perth*, and the concurrence of the Nobility and Gentry concerned, be desired for this end.

The General Assembly having several times heard and considered the abovewritten Overtures, They by their vote unanimously did, and hereby do approve thereof; And Appoints, Refers, and Recommends according thereto, in all points.

XVII.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is to be held at *Edinburgh*, upon the first *Friday* of *February*, One Thousand Seven Hundred Years.

The Assembly being closed, the Members were dismissed with Prayer, singing the 133 *Psalm, and pronouncing of the Blessing.*

Collected, and Extracted, From the Records of the General Assembly, By Me,

J. Bannatyne, *Cls. Syn. National.*

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Act taking off the Sentences of Suſpenſion and Depoſition of Mr. *Hugh Mackhenry*, upon his application and humble deſire therefore, and his engagment to be ſubject to the Judicatories of this Church. *Ib*

Act anent an addreſs to the Council for puniſhing Witches, Charmers *&c.* with Overtures thereanent. *Ib*

Act refuſing the deſire of *Mr John Ferguſſon*, and Petition of *Robertoun*, craving a Recognition of the late Aſſemblies ſentence, Tranſporting him to *Aberbrothick*, *Ib*

Petition for *Mr. George Johnſtoun*, craving that the General Aſſembly would conſider his affair, and not remit the ſame to the Commiſſion, granted. *Seſſ.* 11

The Presbytry of *Paiſly* appointed to ſee that *Mr. David Broun* go to *Aberdeen*. *Ib*

Act taking off the ſentence of Suſpenſion off *Mr. John Ferguſſon*, and appointing him to go to *Aberborthick*. *Seſſ.* 12

Act appointing the Presbytry of *Coupar*, to be admoniſhed for not obſerving the Acts of the General Aſſembly, anent Calls. *Ib*

Act appointing *Mr. David Pitcairn* Miniſter to go to *Forreſſe*, with a reference to the Commiſſion in his favours. *Ib*

Act refuſing to Suſtain the Appeal of *Keeth* from the Presbytry of *Biggar*, and remitting the affair anent *Mr. Robert Baillies* Tranſportation from *Lamingtoun* to *Keeth*. *Seſ.* 13

A Letter to the Earl of *Aboyne*, congratulating his renouncing the Popiſh and owning the Proteſtant Religion, and encouraging his Lordſhip to continue therein. *Seſ.* 10 & 13

Act Refuſing to Tranſport *Mr. George Barclay* Miniſter to *Wigtoun*, and continuing him at *Uphal*. *Seſ.* 13

Proteſtation of *Campvere*, that *Clackmanan* had paſt from their Call to *Mr. Thomas Hog*. *Ib*

Reference to the Commiſſion, anent a Petition from the Preſbytry of *Kircubright*. *Ib*

Addreſs to the Privy Council anent the poor. *Ib*

Act allowing Mr. *Thomas Hog*, to dimit his Miniſtry at *Campvere*, and accept of a Call from the *Scottiſh* Congregation at *Rotterdam*. *Seſſ.* 14

Act Receiving Mr. *John Mackcalman*, (one of theſe that ſerved under the late prelacy) to Miniſterial Communion, upon the Terms of the General Aſſembly 1694. *Ib*

Act determining that Mr. *Hugh Machenry*, ſhould not return to

to his former Charge at *Dalton*, with a recommendation in his favours. *Seſſ.* 15
Act refuſing to Tranſport Mr. *George Johnſton* to *Dalmeny*, and continuing him Miniſter at *Erſtetoun*. *Ib*
Act approving an Overture, that Mr. *George Clephane*, be lookt upon as Miniſter of *Newtild* and upon his Petition granting him an Act of Tranſportability therefrom. *Ib*
Recommendation in favours of Mr. *John Anderſon*. *Ib*
Acts atteſting the Viſitors approbation of the Synod Books, of *Glaſgow* and *Air*, *Fiffe*, *Lothian* and *Tweedale*, *Merſe* and and *Teviotdale*. *Ib*
Act and Recommendation in favours of Mr. *David Williamſon* and the pariſh of *Weſtkirk*. *Seſſ.* 16
Committee for Naming the Members of the Commiſſion. *Ib*
Act taking off the ſentence of Suſpenſion, off Mr. *John Hepburn*, on his humble and earneſt deſire, and profeſſed deference and reſpect to the Judicatories of this Church, and the Peace and Order thereof, which was granted by the General Aſſembly with Certification *&c.* *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion in favours of the *African* and *Indian* Company of *Scotland*, anent providing them with Miniſters *&c.* *Seſſ.* 16 & 17
Reference to the Commiſſion in favours of the Lord *Strathnaver*'s Regiment for a Miniſter. *Seſſ.* 17
Reference to the Commiſſion anent Mr. *Alexander Steedman*, and Mr. *Alexander Anderſon*'s going to *Wick* in *Caithneſs*. *Ib*
Committee to draw Inſtructions to the Commiſſion. *Ib*
Act allowing *John Blair* 50. *lib. Sterling*, for Agenting the Churches affairs, and 5. *lib.* to his Servant yearly. *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion, anent Erroneous Books *&c.* *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion anent Mr. *Patrick Murray* of *Caddell* *&c.* *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion anent Intruders *&c.* *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion, to conſider the Repreſentation ſent from *Murray*. *Ib*
Upon the deſire of the Directors of the *African* and *Indian* Company, The General Aſſembly Recommends to all Miniſters, to pray for the Preſervation and Succeſſe of theſe ſent by the ſaids Directors to remote places. *Ib.*
Reference to the Commiſſion, to name Twenty Probationers for the *North*. *Seſſ.* 18
Report anent the dates of Commiſſions *&c.* with a Recommendation to Presbytries, to obſerve more punctually, the 6 Act of the General Aſſembly. 1698 *Seſſ.* 4 & 18
Reference to the Commiſſion anent an addreſs to the Lords of Theaſury in favours of *Orkney*. *Seſſ.* 18 & *ultima*
Refetence to the Commiſſion anent *Mr. Charles Gordons* going to *Aberdeen*, and *Mr. John Curries* going to *Murray*, and anent the Supply of the *North*. *Ib*

Act atteſting the Viſitors approbation of the Synod Book of *Galloway*. Seſſ. 18
Reference to the Commiſſion, to addreſs the Commiſſion of Parliament, for plantation of Kirks *&c.* *Ib*
Recommendation anent the Collections for Building the Bridges of *Lanerk* and *Ancrum*. *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion anent the Petition of *Mr. John Lyon*, for reception to Miniſterial Communion. *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion of the Petitions of *Mr. Hugh Clanie*, *Mr. Walter Menzies* and *Mr. William Abercromby*, three Miniſters depoſed. *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion, anent *John Sharp* of *Hodom*. *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion of the Petition of *Creiff* *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion, anent the Petition of *Mr. Patrick Lyon*, for reception to Miniſterial Communion. *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion anent the Tranſportation of *Mr. Alexander Glaſs*, from *Auchtermouchty* to *Meegle*. *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion, anent Mrs. *John Dempſter*, and *Patrick Strauchan*, their Proceſſes. *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion anent the form of proceſs. *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion anent old Scandals, and Scandals committed out of the Kingdom, by perſons now reſiding therein, and Education of Youth. *&c.* *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion to addreſs the King in favours of the *North*, *Highlands*, *Caithneſs* and *Orknay*, *&c.* And to write to the Viſcount of *Seafeild*, for his Lordſhips aſſiſtance and concurrence therejn, *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion, of all affairs that were depending before the laſt Commiſſion, yet undiſcuſſed particularly, the references made thereto by the Committee ſent laſt year to *Roſs*, *Sutherland*, *Caithneſs* and *Orknay*. *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion, of the Petition of *Mr. James Hutcheſon*, lately Miniſter at *Grayfriers* Kirk of *Edinburgh*, for taking off a ſentence of Depoſition, and receiving him to Miniſterial Communion. *Ib*
Act appointing *Mr. Robert Clelland*, and *Mr. John Wilſon* Miniſters to ſtay out four *Moneths* in the Province of *Angus* and *Merns*, Supplying Vacances. *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion, anent Mr. *Hector Fraſer* Probationer his going to *Roſs*, and *Sutherland*. *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion, anent the Synod Book of *Drumfrees*. *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion anent Witchcraft, Charming *&c.* Maſquarads, Balls, Stage-playes. *Ib*
Reference to the Commiſſion anent the Petition of ſome Miniſters in *Angus* and *Merns*, for part of the Money gifted by the King to help to defray their publick Charges, anent the Churches affairs. *Ib*
Recommendation to Presbytriesto Supply the Charges of Miniſters

ſters that are members of the Commiſſion during their attendance thereon. *Ib*

Recommendation in favours of *Linlithgow*, *Leith*, *Airth* and *Clackmanon*, anent their being ſpeedily planted. *Ib*

Act declaring all appeals made to this Aſſembly, and not inſiſted in, Null. *Seſſ.* 18 & *ult.*

The Moderator and Commiſſioners Speeches at the cloſs of the Aſſembly.

Committee for Reviſing the Minuts, and ordering the Printing of the Acts of this Aſſembly. *Ib*

OVERTURES, *Tranſmitted by the General Aſſembly* 1699, *to the ſeveral Presbytries within this National Church, that they may conſider the ſame, and ſend their Opinion thereanent to the next General Aſſembly, who may paſs the ſame in Acts, if the more general Opinion of this Church agree thereunto.*

I.

Overtures anent Reviſing of the Regiſters of Church-Judicatories

Edinburgh, 24. January 1699. *Poſt merid.* Seſſ. 4.

THE which Day, The Overtures under-written being brought in, from the Committee for Overtures, was Read in preſence of the General Aſſembly. The Tenor whereof follows.

It is Overtur'd that the General Aſſembly, conſidering the great import to this Church, that all its Regiſters be exact and well kept; Do require all Provincial Synods and Presbytries, to be careful in reviſing of Regiſters of the Judicatories, under their immediat inſpection, And that they may appoint the moſt fit and experienced Brethren for that work, and that when they find nothing to challenge in any Regiſter, they give the ſame the atteſtation following.

"The Provincial Synod of------ having heard the Report "of the Brethren appointed to reviſe the Presbytry Book of ------- and having heard their Remarks thereupon, and the "ſaids Presbytries Anſwers thereto, and it having been enquir-"ed by the Moderator, if any other had any Complaints to "make againſt the Actings of the ſaid Presbytry, and nothing "appearing Cenſurable, Ordered their Clerk to atteſt this in "their Presbytry Book.

And

And ſo for the Regiſters of Provincial Synods, and Kirk Seſſions *Mutatis Mutandis*.

The abovewritten Overtures being read and conſidered, the General Aſſembly tranſmitted the ſame to the ſeveral Presbytries within this National Church, to be conſidered againſt the next General Aſſembly.

II.

Overtures anent School-Maſters, &c.

Edinburgh, 27 January 1699. *Poſt merid.* Seſſ. 8.

THE which Day there was brought in from the Committee for Overtures, the Overture following *viz.*

That all Presbytries take ſpecial, particular and exact notice of all School-Maſters, Chaplains, Governours, and Pædagogues of Youth within their reſpective bounds, who Teach Erroneous Principles, or are not careful to Educat theſe under their charge in the Proteſtant Reformed Religion, or that are guilty of Immoralities, particularly of Sabbath-breaking, *&c.* And that Maſters of Colledges take care, and uſe their Authority for the ſame ends, that the Delinquents may be proceſſed by the Reſpective Presbytries, and Cenſured upon clear evidences of their guilt.

The above Overture being read and conſidered by the General Aſſembly, they tranſmitted the ſame to the ſeveral Presbytries within this National Church, to be conſidered, againſt the next General Aſſembly.

III.

Overture againſt Witch-craft, Charming &c.

Edinburgh, January 30. 1699. *poſt merid.* Seſſ. 10.

"THE which Day, There was brought in from the Com-
"mittee for Overtures, a Repreſentation anent diverſe
"Lamentable accounts of effects of Witch-craft, charged upon
"ſeveral perſons, and the ſaid Committee gave it as their Opi-
"nion, that it is fit, that former Acts of General Aſſemblies con-
"cerning Witch-craft were revived, and Recommended to the

care

"care of all Presbytries, particularly Act Assembly 1640. *July* "29. *Sess.* 2. Assembly 1643. *August* 19, *Sess. ult.* and Assem- "bly 1649. *August* 6. *Sess. ult.*

"2. And that it were worthy of the Assemblies consideration "to think upon, and prescribe some uniform method, for cen- "suring Ecclesiastically such as shall be convict of Witch-craft "or Charming and their Consulters who escape the civil punish- "ment.

IV.

Overture anent Scandalous and Contumacious Persons.

Edinburgh, 3 February 1699. *post merid.* Sess. 17.

THE General Assembly having heard an Overture, That the Names of Scandalous Persons of whatever quality, guilty of gross immoralities and contumacious to Church-Discipline, be sent in to the Commission, or General Assembly, by the Clerks of the Respective Synods, with an full Extract of the Proces against them, and that they proceed against them as they see cause. Which Overture being considered, the General Assembly transmits the same, to the several Presbytries, to be considered against the next General Assembly.

V.

Overture anent the Emolumentary Writes of Ministers, Kirks, School-Masters, &c.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly having heard an Overture anent the Emolumentary Writes of Ministers, School-Masters, Churches, and the Poor of Parishes, do transmit the same to the consideration of the several Presbytries within this National Church, to be ripned against the next General Assembly. The Tenor whereof follows.

That all Ministers be appointed to exhibit to their respective Presbytries, their Decreets of Modification or Locality that they now have, with all Emolumentary Writes that belong to their Respective Kirks, and their Sessions, and that they Subscribe an Inventary thereof, with an obligement to make them forth-

coming, bearing Regiſtration, and the ſaid obligement be Regiſtred in the Books of Council and Seſſion, as well as the Inventary and Obligement in the Books of the Presbytry of the Bounds. *Item*, That all the ſaid Emolumentary Writes, not bearing Regiſtration be Regiſtred, conform to the late Act of Parliament, and if they bear Regiſtration, that they be Regiſtred accordingly: And that all the ſaids Regiſtrations be made upon the Expences of the Seſſion-Box, in ſo far as concerns the *Poor*. *Item*, It would be convenient, that the Lord Regiſter be applyed to, to appoint a particular Regiſter in each of the three Clerks of Seſſions Chamber, for the more eaſy ſearching and finding of the ſaids *Papers* ſo Regiſtred. *Item*, That the dates of the Regiſtrations be marked in the Inventary, As likewayes that the dates of the Regiſtration of the ſaid Obligment be Recorded in the *Presbytry* Book.

VI.

Overtures anent the making of Acts, and due care to obſerve them when made.

Edinburgh February 4. 1699. *ante merid* Seſſ. 18. *& ult.*

1. THAT when any thing of publick concern, and of great weight is propoſed to the General Aſſembly, to be paſt as Overtures or Acts, after the firſt Reading, it be delayed till the next next day of the Aſſemblies ſitting, and ly on the Table to be ſeen and conſidered by all the Members.

2. That when any thing is paſt as Overtures by the General, Aſſembly, it be ordained, that all and every Presbytry read them publickly in their Presbyterial Meeting, once before the firſt Meeting of the Synod next after the General Aſſembly, and that they conſider of them, and that this be Recorded in their Presbytry Book, and enquired into by their Synods in viſiting *Presbytry* Books: As alſo, It be recommended to all Presbytries, to ſend in an account of their Judgement and opinion thereanent, with their Commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly in Write, but as breifly as may be, and the Overtures to be Printed after the Acts.

3. That each Miniſter and Seſſion have a Copy of all the Printed Acts of the General Aſſembly, and that the Presbytries enquire into this at Viſitations.

4. That an Alphabetical Index be drawn of the Acts of the General Aſſemblies.

VII.

VII.

Overture Diſcharging the Printing of any Paper to be preſented to the Aſſembly without Allowance.

Eadem Seſſione.

THAT no perſon preſume to print any Petition, Addreſs, Appeal, Reaſons or Anſwers, or any other part of any Proces, brought in to the General Aſſembly, or any other Church Judicatory, without leave given by the Reſpective Judicatories before whom the ſame is in dependence, with Certification that no reſpect ſhall be had thereto, in caſe they contraveen this, by reading or conſidering the ſame.

The General Aſſembly having conſidered the ſaids Overtures, did and hereby do tranſmit the ſame to the conſideration of the ſeveral Presbytries, *&c.*

VIII.

Overtures anent Cenſuring Scandalous Perſons.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly tranſmits to the ſeveral Presbytries within this National Church, the Overtures concerning the method and form of procedure of the Judicatories of the Church, againſt Scandalous Perſons, which Overtures are printed at the end of the *Index of the Unprinted Acts of the General Aſſembly* 1698. being agreed to, by the Commiſſion thereof; And it is Recommended to Presbytries, to conſider the ſaids Overtures, and ſend their Opinion thereanent to the next General Aſſembly.

IX.

Overtures anent Papiſts.

Eadem Seſſione.

IT is Overtur'd, That a privat acknowledgement of a Papiſt Renounceing that Religion Verbally, is not ſufficient to admit them to Church priviledges, but that Presbytries do in this, what may tend moſt to the gaining of the party concerned, and for the edification of the Church.

t The General Aſſembly tranſmits this Overture to the conſi-on of the ſeveral Presbytries.

FINIS.

THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS,

OF THE

General Assembly,

OF THE

CHURCH,

OF

SCOTLAND;

Conveened, at *Edinburgh, February.* 2. 1700.

Collected, and Extracted, from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH,

Printed by *George Mosman*, Printer to this CHURCH, and Its ASSEMBLIES. *Anno Domini*, M. DCC.

THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS,

OF THE

General Assembly,

OF THE

CHURCH,

OF

SCOTLAND:

Continued, at Edinburgh, February 2. 1700.

Collected, and Extracted, from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH,

Printed by George Mosman, Printer to this CHURCH, and Ja
Assembly, Anno Domini, M. DCC.

THE PRINCIPAL ACTS, OF THE Generall Assembly, OF THE CHURCH, OF SCOTLAND;

Holden, and Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 2*d*. day of *February*, 1700, And Ending the 20 Day of that same Moneth.

I.

The Recording of His Majestie's Commission, To the Viscount of Seafeild, *for Representing His Majesty, in this* Assembly.

At *Edinburgh*, 2*d*. *February*, 1700. Sess. 1.

THIS Day, The General Assembly, of the Ministers and Elders, of this National Church, being conveened, There was produced to them, by a Noble Lord, *James Viscount* of *Seafeild*, Principal Secretary of State, for this Kingdom, His Majestie's Commission, under the Great Seal of this Kingdom, Nominating and Appointing him, to be *His Majestie's High Commissioner*, and Representative, in this *National Assembly*; Which was publickly Read, in Their Audience, with all due Honour and Respect; and appointed to be Recorded, in the Registers of this *Assembly*: Therein to remain, *ad futuram Rei Memoriam*. The Tenor whereof followes.

"GULIELMUS, Dei Gratia, Magnæ *Britanniæ*, *Franciæ*,
"& *Hiberniæ*, Rex, Fideique Defensor; *Omnibus* Probis
"Hominibus, ad quos præsentes Literæ nostræ pervenerint,
"*Salutem*: Quandoquidem, Ex Decreto Nostro, Generalis Ec-
"clesiæ Conventus, Antiquioris Regni Nostri *Scotiæ*, In *Secun-*
"*dum Diem* Mensis *Februarii*, *Anno Domini*, Millesimo Septin-
"gentesimo Continuatus erat; Nos autem abunde Cupidi, quin
"etiam necessarium esse Judicantes, in commodum dictæ Eccle-
"siæ, ut idem Generalis Conventus die statuto debite observe-
"tur; Sed rebus magni momenti alio vocantibus, dicto con-
"ventui, interesse nequimus; Cumque Fidelissimus & Dilectis-
"simus noster Consanguineus & Consiliarius, *Jacobus Vice Comes*
"de *Seafeild*, perplurima præclara edidit specimina, de Facultа-
"tibus suis eximiis, & Fidelitate insigni; unde nobis abunde sa-
"tisfactum est, Quod, ad munera Summi Officii inframentiona-
"ti, rite exercenda & obeunda, in finem supra expressum,
"usquequaque est Idoneus: *Noveritis* igitur nos fecisse & con-
"stituisse, sicuti per hasce nostras patentes literas, facimus, &
"constituimus, eundem *Jacobum Vice Comitem* de *Seafeild*, Su-
"premum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum infra-
"expressum: *Damus* pariter, & concedimus illi, Sacram no-
"stram Personam, & Authoritatem nostram Regalem, repræsen-
"tandi, præsentiam nostram supplendi, locumque nostrum, in
"dicto subsequenti Generali Conventu, tanquam Commissio-
"nario nostro, in hunc effectum, specialiter constituto, tenen-
"di, omniaque alia, ad imperium, & munus Commissionarii,
"pro Generali Ecclesiæ Conventu, peragendi, tam plene a-
"deoque libere, in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius, ejus-
"dem supremi muneris, & Characteris, fecerat, seu quovis
"tempore retroacto, facere poterat; atque sicuti nos ipsi, per-
"sonaliter præsentes, facere poterimus, plenissimam & am-
"plissimam, nostram potestatem, & Commissionem. *Quaqui-*
"*dem* omnia, & singula, a dicto *Jacobo Vice Comite* de *Seafeild*,
"in hac nostra Commissione prosequenda, legitime facienda,
"nos firmiter Approbamus, Rati habemus & habituri sumus.
"*Omnibus* & singulis insuper, antedicti Conventus, & Ecclesiæ
"Pastoribus, & Presbyteris, & cæteris quibuscunque, hujus
"nostri regni subditis, cujuscunque qualitatis & conditionis,
"ut dictum *Jacobum Vice Comitem* de *Seafeild*, tanquam supre-
"mum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum & modum
"supramentionatum, Agnoscant, Revereantur, & Dicto ipsi-
"us audientes se præbeant, stricte Mandamus & Imperamus.
"*Ac* denique, hanc nostram Commissionem, a die, quo ma-
"gnum hujus Regni Nostri Sigillum, præsentibus est Appen-
"sum, & deinceps, hac Sessione sequenti Generalis Conven-
"tus antedicti, in vigore continuare declaravimus, & per

præsentes

" præſentes declaramus; Saltem uſque dum, a nobis revo-
" cabitur. *In cujus Rei Teſtimonium*, præſentibus, magnum Si-
" gillum Noſtrum, appendi Mandavimus, apud Aulam Noſt-
" ram, de *Kenſingtoun*, Undecimo die Menſis *Januarii*, *Anno*
" *Domini*, Milleſimo Septingenteſimo, Et *Anno* Regni noſtri
" Undecimo.

Per Signaturam Manu S. D. N. *Regis ſupraſcriptam.*

{ Locus Sigilli Appenſi }

In DORSO.

Written to the Great Seal & Regiſtrate the firſt day of February 1700. *Charles Ker.*

Sealed at Edinburgh, *the firſt of* February, 1700. Al. Home.

II.

His MAJESTIE'S Gracious LETTER, TO THE *GENERAL ASSEMBLY.*

Eadem Seſſione.

THE which Day, His Majeſtie's High Commiſſioner preſented, His Majeſties moſt Gracious Letter, directed to this General Aſſembly, which was publickly Read in their Hearing, with all due Honour and Reſpect, and appointed to be Recorded in their Regiſters: The Tenor whereof followes.

WILLIAM R.

RIGHT Reverend and well Beloved, we Greet You Well. The full and Satisfactory Accounts, we have had of the Proceedings of the former Aſſembly, and of the Commiſſions appointed by them, Do very much Encourage Us to countenance and allow Your Meeting at this time: And We doubt not, but You will Improve this Opportunity, to do what may be further neceſſary, for Promoting Religion: And as Your care hitherto, for ſupplying Vacant Churches,

with Pious and Able Miniſters, has been very acceptable to Us, So We muſt Recommend to You, to continue in the ſame, for providing for ſuch Churches, as are ſtill Vacant; in which You ſhall not want Our Concurrence, and Aſſiſtance. The evident proofs, We have had, of the Experience and Fidelity, of Our Right Truſty and Entirely Beloved, Couſin and Councellor, *James Viſcount of Seafield*, Our Secretary of State, and of his Ability and Fitneſs, for Diſcharging ſuch a Truſt, has made Us chuſe him, to Repreſent Our Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly; And We doubt not, but he will be acceptable to You. We have fully Inſtructed him, in all things needful, and You may give him entire Truſt and Credit. You may aſſure Your ſelves, of Our Royal Protection, in all Your Concerns; And ſo Referring You, for what may be further neceſſary, to Our Commiſſioner, We bid You Heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at Kenſingtoun, *the* 11*th, Day of* January 1700. *And of Our Reign the* 11*th, Year.*

By His Majeſtie's *Command*,

CARMICHAEL

To the Right Reverend and well Belov'd, the Moderator, Miniſters *and* Elders, *of the General Aſſembly, of the Church, of Our Ancient Kingdom of* Scotland.

III.

The General Assemblies *Answer*,

TO

His Majestie's Gracious Letter.

Edinburgh *February* 7. 1700. *Ante Meridiem*, Sess. 4.

May it please Your Majesty,

THE Continuance of Your Happy Reign over Us, through the Goodness of Our GOD, Doth more and more Confirm and Augment the Grateful Remembrance of Your Majestie's being raised up of GOD, to be the Glorious Deliverer of this Church, when We were brought to Great Distress, and ready to be Swallowed up; And Your Fatherly and Tender Care of Us, now again expressed, in Your most Gracious Letter to this Assembly, gives fresh Occasion to renew these Our Sincere Acknowledgements.

Your Majestie's favourable Acceptance, of the Proceedings of the last General Assembly, and its Commissions, do much Encourage Us to go on Vigorously, to Endeavour the Promoting of Religion, so far as We can in Our Stations, and the Planting the remaining Vacancies of Churches, which We find at this time, to be a great part of Our Work, and for which We have so full Assurance, of Your Royal Assistance.

The Experienced Ability, Fidelity and Loyalty, of the *Viscount of Seafeld*, whom Your Majesty hath sent to Represent Your Royal Person in this Assembly, and the many good Offices he hath done this Church, in the other Honourable Trusts, he hath born under Your Majesty, Do render Your Choice very Acceptable to Us.

That Your Majesty may Reign long and Prosperously, over these Kingdoms, and enjoy the sweet Fruits of Peace, Procured under GOD, by Your unparalleled Prudence and Valour; That Peace and Truth may Flowrish in Your Reign; That all Your Subjects may alwayes make suitable Returns of Gratitude, for the Hazards and Labours, You have undergone for their Repose; That GOD may guide Your Councils and Actings to His Glory, the Suppression of Immorality, the Ad-

vancement of Piety, Your own Comfort, and the Good of this Church and Nation; And that after You have ſerved GOD, in Your Generation, You may receive the Reward, of that Eternal Crown of Glory, that fadeth not away; Are the ſincere Prayers of

May it pleaſe Your Maieſty,

Your Majeſtie's moſt Faithful, moſt Obedient, and moſt Humble Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders, met in this National Aſſembly, of the Church of Scotland.

Signed, in Our Preſence, in Our Name, and at Our Appointment, by

D. Blair Moderator.

IV.

Act Diſjoyning the Presbytry of Strabogie, from the Synod of Aberdeen, *and Annexing the ſame to* Murray.

At Edinburgh, 13. *February* 1700.

Ante Meridiem Seſſ. 11.

THE General Aſſembly agreed, that the Presbytry of *Strabogie*, be Diſjoyned from the United Presbytries of *Turreff*, *Alford* and *Fordyce*, and again Annexed to the Province of *Murray*, as formerly; In reſpect the cauſe of its former Diſjunction from *Murray*, is now removed.

V.

Act, Anent a Solemn National Faſt, and Humiliation.

At Edinburgh, 14. *February* 1700.

Poſt Meridiem, Seſſ. 12.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, taking unto their ſerious conſideration, the many dreadful Tokens of the Lord's Anger evidenced, particularly in the continued pinching Dearth (Notwithſtanding of a favourable Harveſt, and Relief thereby in ſome meaſure) whereby

whereby the Number of the Poor and their Neceſſities, have been, and are greatly increaſſed: The great and unuſual Sickneſs and Mortality, which hath gone over all the Land, and doth yet in part continue; The Rebukes from God on the Nation, in diſappointing ſeveral Undertakings, to advance the Trade and Wealth thereof; and particularly, in ſeveral croſs Providences that the *African* and *Indian* Company's Colony in *America* hath met with; notwithſtanding of the many Fervent Prayers made in their behalf; And by a Stupenduous Burning within theſe few Days, of ſo conſiderable a part of *Edinburgh*, the Capital City of the Kingdom, And laſtly, under all theſe, by the woeful Heart-Plagues of Impenitency and Security. And conſidering, that all the Judgements we groan under, are the ſad Effects, and bitter Fruits of our Hainous Sins, againſt God; Such as the fearful Backſlidings and Perſecutions of the late times, mentioned in our former Cauſes of Humiliation, and not yet ſufficiently mourned for; Our continued unfaithfulneſs to God: Notwithſtanding of our Solemn Covenants and Ingagements, and many profeſſed Reſolutions to the contrary; The Atheiſtical and Execrable Principles, ſubverſive of all Religion, ſo much vented and ſpread amongſt us; The groſs Immoralities of Uncleanneſs of all ſorts, Drunkenneſs, Swearing, Sabbath-breaking, and Unrighteous Dealing among Men, and that amongſt Perſons of all Ranks and Qualities, and theſe abounding and continued in: notwithſtanding of many Endeavours uſed to Reclaim and Reform Tranſgreſſors; The Exceſſive Prodigality and Profuſeneſs of ſome, when others are Afflicted with ſo much Want and Poverty; The great ſlighting of Chriſt offered in the Goſpel, and not receiving of Him in our Hearts, and walking worthy of Him in our Lives and Converſations; The great Contempt and Deſpiſing of Church Diſcipline, the froward Oppoſition in many places to the Planting of Churches, and the progreſs of the Goſpel; Our Ungrate forgetfulneſs of the Merciful and ſignal Deliverances that God hath wrought for us, and our Repining at Gods Afflicting Providences, inſtead of ſubmitting to His mighty Hand lifted up againſt us. And the Aſſembly likewiſe conſidering, the deplorable State of the Reformed Churches in *France*, *Piedmount*, the *Palatinate*, and other places where our Brethren, and the Reformation among them, are either brought to Deſolation and Ruine, or are in extream danger by Cruel and long continued Antichriſtian Perſecution; Which inſtead of abating upon the late Peace of *Europe*, the great benefite of which we enjoy, Hath on the contrary greatly encreaſed. Therefore the General Aſſembly, under the ſerious and deep Senſe of the abovementioned Sins and Judgments, hath

thought fit to ſet apart a Day for Solemn Faſting and Humiliation, and the exerciſe of Repentance, and unfeigned *Purpoſes* of Amendment, which they appoint to be kept upon the day of *March* next to come, being the Thurſday of the ſaid Moneth, over this whole Church and Kingdom: Beſeeching and obteſting all the Lords People, Sincerely and Seriouſly to prepare themſelves thereto, as in the ſight of the Holy and Jealous God, leſt either Carleſneſs, Formality or Siniſtrous ends, turn our Solemn Performances into Sin, and by adding to the provocation, draw upon us yet more dreadful Stroaks; And that they make more particular confeſſion of the forementioned Sins and all others, with a deep Sorrowing for, and Hearty deteſtation of the ſame. As alſo, with humble Submiſſion to, and Acceptance of, the puniſhment of our Iniquities in the Judgments abovementioned, or any others that may be peculiar to Congregations or particular perſons: And that every one, in the moſt ſincere and unfeigned manner Reſolve and Vow amendment both of themſelves, and others as may be incumbent upon them, whether as Magiſtrats, or Miniſters, or otherwiſe in their Reſpective Stations: And that all and every one, do in like manner Reſolve and Vow, the bringing forth Fruits meet for Repentance, in their After-Lives, Carriages and Adminiſtrations; That fervent Application be made and continued in, to the Throne of Grace, through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, for the pardon of Sin to each particular perſon, and to the whole Land; That earneſt prayers and Supplications, be made, that the Lord would Graciouſly return to us in Goſpel-Ordinances, and by the breathings of His Spirit, render them more ſavingly ſucceſſful; That our Rulers and Miniſters, and all others may be directed and animated to more effectual and vigorous endeavours for Diſcouraging, Suppreſſing and Puniſhing all ungodlineſs, and for Reforming both themſelves and the Land, without exception; That our King may be long continued a happy Inſtrument for God's Glory, and for the benefit and comfort of this Nation; That he may be Bleſſed and Preſerved in his Perſon and Government, and all wicked Deſigns and Contrivances againſt either, may be Diſcovered, Prevented and Confounded; That all Diſſention, Jealouſie and diſcord may ceaſe, and we all become one in the Lord; That *Bowells* of Compaſſion may be drawn forth for Relief of the Poor and Needy, and proper means effectually uſed, for recovering them from Idleneſs and Want, and reduceing them to Labour and Order; That the Spring and Seedtime may be Bleſſed; That God would Countenance and Bleſs, and bring to a happy Iſſue, all Juſt and Lawful Deſigns and Endeavours, for advanceing the Trade of the Nation, and be Graciouſly pleaſed to Preſerve, *Protect*, and *Proſper* thoſe

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who are lately gone from us, upon the Great National Concern of a *Plantation* Abroad, and that the ſame may, through the Divine Bleſſing and Favour, prove a Happy and Succeſful Mean, for propagating the Goſpel, and Converting the Heathen, in thoſe *Parts*; and that the Miniſters, ſent from this Church, may be ſupported and ſtrengthned for their Work, and ever encouraged in the Lord, againſt all difficulties, and we Refreſhed with a comfortable account of them, and all with them; That our Brethren, in captivity any where, may be Comforted and Relieved; That loſſes both at Home and Abroad may be Sanctified, and alſo made up unto theſe who moſt immediatly ſuffer by them. And laſtly, That our *Proteſtant* Brethren of the Neighbouring Churches under *Perſecution*, may be Supported and Refined in the Furnace, preſerved Faithful in adhering to the Truth; and, in the Lord's good time, delivered.

Some Members of the Aſſembly, being appointed, to Apply, to the Lords, of His Majeſtie's Privy Council, for their Lordſhips Civil Sanction to the Faſt, and for Nameing the Day; Did upon the 16th Day of February 1700. *Report, That their Lordſhips had Granted their Civil Sanction, and Named the* 28. *Day of* March *next, being the laſt Thurſday of that Moneth, for the ſaid Faſt, and Ordered a Proclamation, to be Emitted thereanent.*

VI.

Letter, from the General Aſſembly, to Mr. Alexander Sheilds, *Mr.* Francis Boreland, *Mr.* Archibald Stobo, *and Mr.* Alexander Dalgleiſh.

Edinburgh, 15. February, 1700. *Ante Meridiem.* Seſſ. 13.

Reverend, and Dearly Beloved, Bretheren.

WEE, The Miniſters, and Elders, met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of *Scotland*, are much refreſhed, with the account given us, by the Commiſſion of the preceeding Aſſembly, of your ready Submiſſion, and willingneſs, to undertake the Hazardous, but Honourable Service, upon which they ſent you; And with what we have heard ſince our meeting, by *Letters* of *November* 9*th.* from one of your ſelves, to ſome of our number, of your being got ſafe foreward in your Voyage, the length of *Montſerat*: That, through the Mercy of GOD, you were then ſtill alive, and moſt of you in health, though dangerous Sickneſs had afflicted you, and many of your Company, by the way, and carryed ſome off by Death.

At your ſetting out, you could not but reckon upon Loſſes and Difficulties, but We heartily Bleſs our GOD, with you, that they have not been ſorer and greater. We would not omitt this occaſion, offering at the very time, of our ſitting, To aſſure you, *Our Dear Brethren*, that you are much upon our Hearts, and the Hearts of all the Godly in this Church, who ceaſe not to pour out Fervent Prayers, at the Throne of Grace, in your behalf, and in behalf of the great Goſpel- Work, in which you are engaged.

We have with ſorrow, heard of the Diſtreſſes, that came upon our Country-men, who went before you, and therein cannot but be ſenſible of the Diſpleaſure of the Righteous Lord, juſtly gone forth againſt them and us, for our and their Iniquities: As loudly calling us all to Humiliation and Reformation to Dependance on, and Truſt in the Lord.

We doubt not, but you are endeavouring to improve ſo bitter and aſtoniſhing Diſpenſations to the ſame Bleſſed Ends, both upon your own Spirits, and theſe of your People, and ſo as not to faint under the Chaſtiſements and Rebukes of Providence, but to encourage your ſelves in the Lord your God, who though he ſmite for Sin, yet will return in Mercy to a penitent Reforming People, He will according to his *Promiſe* make the ends of the Earth, to ſee His Salvation; And we hope will yet honour you, and this Church, from which you are ſent, to carry His Name among the Heathen. We are likewayes exceedingly greived, to conſider, that there was ſo much prophanity and Irreligion obſervable, in the Company that you went with, which we fear doth in great meaſure continue, and is a heavy burden and greif of heart to you; Yet it is comfortable, to hear, That there are Serious and Godly *Perſons*, among you; whom, we deſire, together with you, to encourage, in the Lord, and that you may perſevere, in your joint endeavours, for reclaiming the reſt: In order to which, we hope, theſe here ſhall not be wanting, by taking all ſuiteable care, for the future, both with reſpect to thoſe, who may hereafter be ſent to you, and by ſending requiſite Inſtructions, from hence, for ſtrengthening your Hands.

We have appointed a Day of Solemn National Humiliation and *Prayer* to be ſet apart, in this your Mother-Church, for ſeveral weighty Cauſes; And, among the reſt, upon your account; and have ordered, that continual mention be made of you in publick *Prayers*: And we hope, That, through the Mercies of our Gracious GOD, you, being ſafely arrived, in *Caledonia*, or to any happy ſettlement, where God, in His *Providence*, ſhall direct, you have not omitted the Inſtruction, given you, by the late *Commiſſion*, of keeping a Day, together with all the people there, for Solemn *Prayer* and Faſting

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ſting, bewailing former Sins, renewing Baptiſmal Engagements, and with the greateſt Seriouſneſs, dedicating your ſelves, and the Land, unto the Lord: And that you do not neglect to pray daily for the Church of *Scotland* by name, and to pray for, and ſtir up the people under your charge, to be dutiful and Loyal to, Our, and Their *Soveraign Lord, King* WILLIAM.

We know, the Commiſſion hath given you, ſuch farder Inſtructions, as may be of uſe, in the various Exigencies of your Work; and expect, you will be careful, by every occaſion, to tranſmit an account of your whole ſtate to the Commiſſion, We reſolve to leave, for your and other Affairs; who we doubt not will acquaint you from time to time, as occaſion may offer, of what may be further condeſcended on, for your Encouragement.

And now, *Dear Brethren*, be Strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might; to whoſe Rich Grace, and tender Mercies, we commend you, and His Honourable Work in your hands: earneſtly praying, that you may be preſerved, directed and ſupported by Him, and not terrified, through any amazement, but eſtabliſhed in your Duty, and your Labours crowned with Succeſs.

Signed in the Name, and at the Appointment, of the National Aſſembly *of the Church of* Scotland, *by*

D. Blair, Moderator.
Jo. Bannnatyne, Clerk.

Directed,

To the Reverend, Mr. Alexander Scheilds, *Mr.* Francis Boreland, *Mr.* Archibald Stobo, *and Mr.* Alexander Dalgleiſh, *The Miniſters ſent by the Comiſſion of the former* Aſſembly *to the* African *and* Indian *Companie's Colony, In* Caledonia *in* America, *or where ever they are.*

Recommended, to the care, of the Directors of the ſaid Company.

VII.

Act of the General Aſſembly, and Reference to the Commiſſion thereof, in favours of the Preſbyteries of Caithneſs, Orknay, *and* Zetland.

At Edinburgh, 15 February 1700 Years. *Poſt Merid.* Seſſ. 14.

THE General Aſſembly Conſidering, that the Brethren of the Presbyteries of *Caithneſs*, *Orknay*, and *Zetland*, are but few in Number, and that they

cannot conveniently meet in a Synod, for mutual Advice and Aſſiſtance; Do therefore continue the Advices and Inſtructions given to the ſaids Presbyteries, at their Erection; And Referrs to the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, at *Edinburgh* to add to, or alter the ſame, as they ſhall find Cauſe; And empowers the ſaid Commiſſion, to give Advice and Aſſiſtance, to the ſaids Presbyteries, or any of them, as they ſhall be applyed unto, or find needful: And to Determine in all References, Appeals, or Petitions, made or to be made to them by the ſaids Presbyteries, or any Miniſter, or Pariſh, within the Bounds of the ſaids three Presbyteries: And particularly to be Aſſiſting, in Purgeing, and Planting, Kirks; and in Application to the Civil Magiſtrate for repareing, and building *Kirks*, and *Manſes*, and ſettling of *Schools*, in theſe Bounds; And likeways to ſend *Probationers*, to the ſaids Presbyteries, and give them the Allowance, appointed by the laſt Aſſembly, and Commiſſion thereof, Upon Application, for that Effect: And in general, to do all things needful, with Reſpect to the ſaids Presbyteries, that other Commiſſions might have done, or that was committed to them, by former Aſſemblies.

VIII.

Approbation of the Actings, and Proceedings, of the Commiſſion, appointed by the General Aſſembly, 1699.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly having, this day, had reproduced, in their preſence, the Regiſter of the Actings, and Proceedings, of the Commiſſioners, appointed by the late Aſſembly, and having heard the Report of a Committee, of this Aſſemblies own number, that were not Members of the ſaid Commiſſion, but appointed to reviſe, examine, and conſider, the ſaid Regiſter, with their Obſerves thereupon: All the Members of the ſaid Commiſſion, were deſired to remove, and Mr. *John Lawrie* was choſen *Moderator*, and Mr. *Thomas Ruſſel*, *Clerk pro tempore*; The Moderator and Clerk of this Aſſembly, having been Members, of the ſaid Commiſſion, and therefore removed; And the General Aſſembly having ſeriouſly conſidered the ſaid Report, and Anſwers made by the Moderator of the Commiſſion, and other Members thereof, To the ſaid Obſerves; and finding thereby, that the whole Actings, Proceedings, and Concluſions, of the ſaid Commiſſioners, contained in the Regiſters ſubſcribed by Mr. *John Bannatyne* Clerk thereto,

thereto, beginning the *sixt* day of *February* last, and ending the *Thirty one* of *January* last, Do evidence much Wisdom, Prudence, Diligence, and Faithfulness, and that the said Commission, have proceeded orderly, and formally in the things, that came before them According to their Commission and Instructions: Therefore this General Assembly, by their Vote did, and hereby do, ratify and approve the saids Actings, Proceedings, and Conclusions, of the saids Commissioners, contained in the Register thereof. And the Members of the Commission being called in, The same was intimate to them; And the Moderator gave them the Thanks, of this Assembly, For their good Service; and then the Moderator, and Clerk, of this Assembly, did again take their places.

IX.

Act anent revising of the Registers, of Church-Judicatories.

At Edinburgh, 16 February 1700. *Ante Meridiem*, Sess: 15.

THE General Assembly Taking to their Consideration, the Overture transmitted by the late General Assembly, to Presbyteries, concerning the revising of the Registers of Church-Judicatories, and having heard the same, several times, read in their own presence; as also having heard the Report, of the Committee for Overtures, concerning the Opinion of Presbyteries thereanent: And the General Assembly, considering the great Import to this Church, that all its Registers be exact, and well kept, Do require all Provincial Synods, and Presbyteries, to be careful in revising of the Registers of the Judicatories, under their immediate Inspection; And that they appoint, a competent number of the most Fit and Experienced Ministers, for that Work; and when they find nothing to challenge, in any Register, they give the same, the Attestation following, *viz.*

"The Provincial Synod of having heard the Report, "of these, appointed to revise the Presbytery Book of "and having heard their Remarks thereupon, and the saids "Presbytries Answer thereto; And it having been enquired, "by the Moderator, if any other had any Complaints, to make "against the Actings of the said Presbytery, and nothing ap- "pearing censureable, Ordered the Clerk to attest this in their "Presbytery-Book.

And so, for the Registers of Provincial Synods, and Kirk-Sessions *mutatis mutandis*; But if there be any thing truely censureable, in the said Book, and in it self Material, with

reſpect to Diſcipline, that it be recorded, as cenſured, both in the Synod-Book, and Atteſtation.

X.

Act anent Schoolmaſters, Chaplains, Governours, and Pedagogues.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly took to their Conſideration the Overture tranſmitted to Presbyteries, by the late General Aſſembly, concerning School-maſters, Chaplains, Governours, and Pedagogues, and having heard the ſame, read over in their own preſence, as alſo the Report, of the Committee for Overtures, thereanent, and concerning the Opinion of Presbyteries thereupon, The General Aſſembly did, and hereby do, Appoint, all Presbyries, to take Special, Particular, and exact Notice, of all Schoolmaſters, Chaplains, Governours, and Pedagogues of Youth, within their reſpective bounds, and oblige them to ſubſcribe the Confeſſion of Faith, of this Church, as the Confeſſion of their Faith; And, in caſe of continued Negligence (after Admonition) Errour, or Immoralities, or of their teaching Erroneous Principles, or not being careful to Educate theſe, under their Charge, in the Proteſtant Reformed Religion: The Presbytery, with reſpect to School-maſters, is to apply to the Civil Magiſtrate in Burghs, and Heretors in Landward; and with reſpect to Governours, Chaplains and Pedagogues, to Maſters, for removing ſuch Perſons from theſe Offices; And if this be not remeeded by them, that the Presbytery, with reſpect to School-maſters, apply to the Commiſſion of Parliament for Viſitation, of Schools and Colledges. And it is hereby appointed, That an Account be given in, every half year, to the Presbytery, by Miniſters, what School-maſters, Chaplains, Governours, and Pedagogues, are in their reſpective Paroches: And the General Aſſembly recommends, to Maſters of Colledges, to take Care, and uſe their Authority, for the ſame ends, that the Delinquents may be proceeded againſt, by the reſpective Presbytries, and cenſured, upon clear evidence of their Guilt.

XI. *Act*

XI

Act anent ſubſcribing the Confeſſion of Faith

At Edinburgh, 17 February 1700

Ante Meridiem Seſſ: 16.

THE General Aſſembly Appoints, That all Miniſters and Ruleing-Elders, belonging to this National Church, ſubſcribe the Confeſſion of Faith, As the Confeſſion of their Faith, according to the Act of Aſſembly 1690, and the *Formula* agreed upon in the Aſſembly, held in the Year 1694, Act. 11*th*, ¶. 6. And that this be done, betwixt and the next General Aſſembly.

XII.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters, and Elders, to viſite the Bounds of the Provinces of Angus *and* Merns, Aberdeen, Murray *and* Roſs.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, taking to Conſideration, how requiſite it is, That ſome Miniſters and Elders, be appointed, for Viſitation of Kirks on the *North ſide of Tay*, and diſcuſſing ſuch Affairs, as this Aſſembly ſhall think fit to refer thereto: Doth therefore by theſe preſents, Nominate Commiſſionate and Appoint, Mr. *Patrick Cuming Miniſter at Ormeſton*, Mr. *John Stirling at Greenock*, Mr *Hugh White at Larbert*, Mr. *James Hadow, Profeſſor of Divinity at St. Andrews*, Mr. *James Ramſay at Eymouth*, Mr. *Samuel Charters at Innerkeithing*, Mr. *Joſeph Drew at New-Munkland*, *and* Mr. *Andrew Broun at Spot*, Miniſters; *Walker Stewart of Pardivan, and James Pringle of Buckholm*, Ruleing Elders, To be a Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, for the Effect foreſaid, and appoints them to have their firſt Meeting, in the Church of *Dundee*, upon the ſecond *Wedneſday* of *June* next, at two of the clock in the afternoon, and then to proceed, through the Provinces of *Angus*, and *Mearnes Aberdeen, Murray*, and *Roſs*. And it is hereby declared, that the Miniſters and Ruleing Elders of the Bounds, are to be Members of the ſaid Commiſſion, within their reſpective Presbyteries; unleſs any of them be found Parties: With power to the ſaid Commiſſion, to chuſe their own Moderator and Clerk; and the ſaid Commiſſion are hereby empowered, to viſite Presbyteries, and Pariſhes,

Purge and Plant Churches, Redreſs Grievances, and call to an Accompt, and try Perſons diſſeminating erroneous Principles, and heretical Doctrines; And generally to do all things, conform to the Inſtructions, given to the Commiſſion, ſent *North* in the Year 1694, and the Committee ſent to *Roſs*, *Sutherland*, *Caithneſs*, and *Orknay*, in the Year 1698. And the ſaid Commiſſion, are hereby appointed, to make Enquiry, what Grouth Popery makes in thoſe Bounds; And in caſe they find traffiqueing *Papiſts*, or *Prieſts*, and Jeſuits, in any of theſe *Bounds*, that they apply to the Magiſtrates of the Place, for Execution of the Laws, againſt them; And the General Aſſembly Exhorts and Requires, the ſaid Commiſſion to Act deliberately, in all their *Procedure*, and for that end, to ſtay a competent time, in each Province they come to, as the Exigence of the Bounds requires: and the *Presbyteries* of the ſeveral *Bounds*, are deſired, and required, to prepare any Buſineſs, they have to be cognoſced by the ſaid Commiſſion; And for that end to cite *Parties*, in the name of the ſaid Commiſſion, to appear before the ſame; thereby to gain time. And in caſe the Commiſſion find it convenient, That any of the Brethren of the *Presbytries*, in whoſe bounds they ſhall be, for the time, Concurre with them to viſite the bounds of the next *Presbytrie*, That then, upon the Commiſſion's deſireing the ſame, the ſaid *Presbytrie*, in whoſe bounds they are, are hereby required, to nominate ſome of their number, to join with the ſaid Commiſſion, in viſiting the neighbouring Presbytery, and that they diſcuſs all References and Appeals, that ſhall be Remitted to them, By this Aſſembly: And the ſaid Commiſſion are prohibite, to meddle in any thing, but what is hereby committed to them. And laſtly, they are to be countable to, and cenſureable by the next enſueing General Aſſembly, for all their *Actings*.

XIII.

Commiſſion by the General Aſſembly, to ſome Miniſters and a Ruleing Elder to viſite Zetland, Orknay, *and* Caithneſs.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church of *Scotland*, taking to their conſideration, a Reference made to them by the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly, anent ſending a Committee, to viſite *Zetland*, and having heard ſome Letters from the Brethren of the *Presbytery* there, earneſtly deſireing the ſame; And being

being convinced of the great Need there is, of ſending ſome Miniſters, to theſe Bounds, Did, and do hereby, Nominate, Commiſſionate, and Appoint, Mr. *James Hart Miniſter at Ratho*, Mr. *John Brand at Borrowſtouneſs*, Mr. *John Sandilands at Dolphingtoun*, Mr. *Alexander Lauder at Mordingtoun*, Mr. *James Graham at Holm, in Orkney*, Mr. *Patrick Guthrie at Sanday there*, Mr. *William Blaw at Weſtray there*, Miniſters, *and Samuel Maclelan Stewart Principal* of *Orkney and Zetland*, Ruleing Elder: To be a Commiſſion, for viſiting the ſaid Presbytry of *Zetland*, Churches within the Bounds thereof, and for aſſiſting the Brethren of the ſaid Presbytry, in their Presbyterial Work; And appoints the Brethren, of the ſaid Commiſſion abovenamed, that lives be South *Tay*, to meet at *Edinburgh*, upon the firſt day of *Aprile* next, and be in readineſs, to take their Voyage, and with the firſt fair Wind thereafter, to go to *Zetland*, and as ſoon as they can, to meet with the Brethren of the Presbytry thereof, (who are hereby declared to be Members of the ſaid Commiſſion) With Power to them, to chuſe their own Moderator and Clerk; and they are hereby Empowered to do, & Required to obſerve, what is committed to them, by the particular Inſtructions, to be given them, by this Aſſembly or Commiſſion thereof, appointed to meet at *Edinburgh*; And to proceed, in all things that comes before them, according to the Conſtitutions of this Church, and Acts of the General Aſſemblies thereof: And in caſe they ſhall find convenient, either to go by *Caithneſs* and *Orkney*, or return that Way, They are hereby Empowered to do all things in theſe Provinces, for the good of the Church, that they have by their Commiſſion, to do in *Zetland*. And laſtly, appoints the ſaid Commiſſion, to report an Account of their Diligence in the ſaids Affairs, to the next enſueing General Aſſembly; To whom they are to be countable, for all their Actings.

XIV.

Act in favours of the Miniſters, ſent North *on the ſeveral Commiſſions.*

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly declares, That the Brethren, named to go North, upon Commiſſions, and that ſhall go to the places appointed, according to their Commiſſions, ſhall be exonered, from going in ſupplies to the North, when it comes to their Turn; And the Presbytries from whom they go, are hereby appointed, carefully to ſupply the Churches, of the ſaids Brethren, with Preaching, dureing their abſence on the ſaids Commiſſions.

XV.

Act Anent Scandalous and Contumacious Perſons.

At Edinburgh, 19. February 1700.

Ante Meridiem Seſſ. 17.

THE General Aſſembly took to their Conſideration, the Overture Tranſmitted to Presbytries, by the late General Aſſembly, concerning Scandalous and Contumacious Perſons; And having heard the ſame Read, in their own Preſence; As alſo the Report of the Committee for Overtures thereanent, and concerning the Opinion, of Presbytries thereupon: The General Aſſembly Did by their Vote, and hereby Do, Allow Presbytries, if they find Cauſe, to ſend in to the General Aſſembly, or Commiſſion thereof, the Names of Scandalous Perſons, of whatever Quality, Guilty of Groſs Immoralities, and Contumacious to Church-Diſcipline; with an full Extract of the Proceſs, that they may proceed againſt them, as they ſee Cauſe.

XVI.

Act Anent the Method of making Overtures and Acts, of the General Aſſembly.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly took to their Conſideration, the Overtures Tranſmitted to Presbytries, by the late Aſſembly, concerning the method of paſſing Overtures, and Acts of Aſſembly, and having heard the ſaids Overtures Read, in their own Preſence; As alſo, the Report of the Committee for Overtures thereanent, and concerning the Opinion of Presbytries thereupon: The General Aſſembly Did by their Vote, and hereby Do, Enact and Appoint, That when any thing of publick Concern, and great Weight, is propoſed to the General Aſſembly, to be paſt as Overtures, or Acts, for a ſtanding Rule to the Church, after the firſt Reading, it be delayed till the next day of the Aſſemblies ſitting, and ly on the Table, to be ſeen and Conſidered by all the Members; And likewayes, when any thing is paſt, as Overtures, by the General Aſſembly, It is Ordained, that all and every Presbytry Read them, publickly, in their Presbyterial

terial meeting, once before the firſt meeting of the Synod next after the General Aſſembly, and Conſider of them, and that this be Recorded in their Presbytry Book, and enquired into by their Synods, in viſiting Presbytry Books; As alſo it is hereby Recommended to all Presbytries, to ſend in an Account of their Judgement, and Opinion thereanent, with their Commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, in write, but as briefly as may be, and the Overtures to be printed after the Acts; And Laſtly, It is hereby Enacted, and Appointed, That each Miniſter, and Kirk-Seſſion, have a Copy of all the printed Acts of the General Aſſembly, and that Enquiry be made into this, at Presbyterial and Synodical Cenſures and their Diligence recorded.

XVII.

Act diſcharging the printing of any part of Eccleſiaſtick Proceſſes, without Allowance.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly took to their Conſideration, the Overture tranſmitted to Presbyteries, by the late Aſſembly, againſt the printing of any Paper, to be preſented to Church-Judicatories, without Allowance; And having heard the ſaids Overtures in their own preſence, as alſo the Report of the Committee for Overtures thereanent; And concerning the Opinion of Presbyteries thereupon: The General Aſſembly did by their Vote, and hereby do Prohibite, and Diſcharge, any Perſon or Perſons, to Preſume to print any Petition, Addreſs, Appeal, Reaſons, or Anſwers, or any part, of any Proceſs, to be brought in to the General Aſſembly, or any other Church-Judicatory, without Leave, given by the reſpective Judicatories, before whom the ſame is in Dependance; With Certification, that no reſpect ſhall be had thereto, In caſe they controveen this, by Reading or conſidering the ſame.

XVIII

Act Regulating the Reception of ſuch as come off from Popery.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly took to their conſideration, the Overture tranſmitted to Presbytries, by the late Aſſembly, concerning Papiſts, and having heard the ſame, read in their own preſence, as alſo the report of the Commitee for Overtures thereanent, And concerning the Opinion, of Presbyteries thereupon: The General Aſſembly did Judge, that a private Acknowledgment of a Papiſt, Renounceing

that Religion verbally, is not ſufficient to admit them to Church-Priviledges: And therefore appoints, that the Reception of any that comes off, from Popery, to the Communion of this Church, be the Deed of a Church-Judicatory; And that they Subſcribe the Confeſſion of Faith, as the Confeſſion of their Faith.

XIX.

Commiſſion by the General Aſſembly to ſome Miniſters and Elders, to meet at Edinburgh, *for Planting Vacant Kirks in the* North, *and other Affairs Referred to them.*

At Edinburgh, the 19. Day of February 1700.

Poſt Meridiem Seſſ. 18.

THE General Aſſembly Conſidering, That there are yet ſeveral Vacant Churches on the North ſide of *Tay*; As likewayes, That there are ſeveral weighty Affairs, which this Aſſembly cannot overtake; Do therefore find it needful, That there be a Commiſſion granted, to ſome Miniſters and Elders, for Planting theſe Vacant Churches, and doing what other Affairs ſhall be Referred to them: And for that end, do hereby Nominate, Commiſſionate and Appoint, Mr. *Daniel Campbel*, and Mr. *Daniel Mackay*, for the Presbytry of *Inverary*; Mr. *Walter Campbel*, and Mr. *Daniel Macklawrine*, for the Presbytry of *Denoon*; Mr. *David Simſon*, and Mr. *Dougal Campbel*, for the Presbytry of *Kintyre*; Mr. *Martine Mackpherſon*, for the Presbytry of *Skye*; Mr. *Samuel Nairn*, Mr. *Thomas Black*, and Mr. *Alexander Glaſs*, for the united Presbytries of *Perth* and *Dunkeld*; Mr. *William Reid*, and Mr. *William Spence* for the Presbytry of *Auchterardor*; Mr. *John Forreſter*, and Mr. *Hugh White*, for the Presbytry of *Stirling*; Mr. *Michael Potter*, and Mr. *Alexander Douglaſs*, for the Presbytry of *Dumblane*, Mr. *Samuel Charters*, and Mr. *Allan Logan*, for the Presbytry of *Dumfermline*; Mr. *Archibald Riddel*, and Mr. *John Shaw*, for the Presbytry of *Kirkcaldy*; Mr. *James Pitcairn*, and Mr. *Edward Jameſon*, for the Presbytry of *Coupar*; Mr. *James Haddow*, Mr. *John Anderſon* Miniſter, and Mr. *William Moncrief* at *Largo*, for the Presbytry of St. *Andrews*; Mr. *Samuel Johnſtoun*, and Mr. *James Ramſay*, for the united Presbytries of *Dundee*, *Meigle* and *Forfar*; Mr. *Francis Melvil*, and Mr. *John Ferguſon*, for the united Presbytries of *Brechen*, *Aberbrothick* and *Mearnes*; Mr. *James Osburn*, Mr. *Alexander Mitchel*, and Mr. *Thomas Thomſon*, for the united Presbytries of *Aberdeen* and *Kincarden*; Mr. *Hugh Innes*, and Mr. *Peter Darling*,

ling, for the united Presbytries of *Turreff*, *Alford* and *Fordyce*; Mr. *John Mulliken*, for the united Presbytries of *Ellen*, *Deer*, and *Garrioch*; Mr. *Alexander Forbes*, and Mr. *James Thomſon*, for the united Presbytries in *Murray*; Mr. *William Stewart*, and Mr. *Walter Denoon*, for the united Presbytries of *Roſs* and *Southerland*; Mr. *William Innes*, and Mr. *John Monro*, for the Presbytry of *Caithneſs*; Mr. *Thomas Baikie*, and Mr. *John Cobb*, for the Presbytry of *Orkney*; Mr. *James Kay*, and Mr. *William Binning*, for the Presbytry of *Zetland*; Mr. *Gilbert Rule*, Mr. *George Meldrum*, Mr. *David Blair*, Mr. *William Crichton*, Mr *John Law*, Mr. *George Hamilton*, Mr. *David Williamſon*, Mr *Thomas Wilkie* in *Canongate*, Mr. *John Moncrief*, Mr. *James Webſter*, Mr. *John Hamilton*, Mr. *George Campbel*, Mr. *William Wiſehart*, Mr. *Andrew Bowie*, and Mr. *George Andrews*, for the Presbytry of *Edinburgh*; Mr. *George Barclay*, Mr. Mr. *William Burnet*, Mr. *Alexander Dalgleiſh*, and Mr. *Thomas Miller*, for the Presbytry of *Linlithgow*; Mr. *Robert Livingſton*, and Mr. *Robert Baillie*, for the Presbytry of *Biggar*; Mr. *James Anderſon*, and Mr. *Archibald Torie*, for the Presbytry of *Peebles*; Mr. *Patrick Cuming*, Mr. *David Walker*, and Mr. *Robert Sandilands*, for the Presbytry of *Dalkeith*; Mr. *James Clerk*, Mr. *Matthew Reid*, and Mr. *Mungo Watſon*, for the Presbytry of *Haddingtoun*; Mr. *John Forreſt*, and Mr. *Robert Stark*, for the Presbytry of *Dumbar*; Mr. *Alexander Cowden*, and Mr. *Archibald Borthwick*, for the Presbytry of *Dunſe*; Mr. *James Ramſay*, at *Eymouth*, and Mr. *John Dyſart*, for the Presbytry of *Chirnſide*; Mr. *John Vetch*, and Mr. *George Johnſton*, for the Presbytry of *Erſleton*; Mr. *John Rutherford*, and Mr. *Charles Gordon*, for the Presbytry of *Selkrig*; Mr. *John Gaudie*, and Mr. *James Noble*, for the Presbytry of *Kelſo*; Mr *Gabriel Semple*, and Mr. *Nicol Edgar*, for the Presbytry of *Jedburgh*; Mr. *William Vetch*, and Mr. *Robert Blair*, for the Presbytry of *Drumfrees*; Mr. *Thomas Shields*, and Mr. *James Elder*, for the Presbytry of *Penpont*; Mr. *George Mulliken*, and Mr. *William Aikman*, for the Presbytry of *Lochmaben*; Mr. *James Armſtrang*, and Mr. *John Mein*, for the Presbytry of *Midlebee*; Mr. *Andrew Cameron*, and Mr. *James Monteith*, for the Presbytry of *Kircudbrigt*; Mr. *Robert Rowan*, and Mr. *Andrew Ewart*, for the Presbytry of *Wigtoun*; Mr. *Thomas Caſtillaw*, and Mr. *Walter Lawrie*, for the Presbytry of *Stranrawer*; Mr. *Andrew Rodger*, Mr. *John Lawrie*, Mr. *John Hunter*, and Mr. *James Gilchriſt* Senior, for the Presbytry of *Aire*; Mr. *Patrick Verner*, and Mr. *Francis Finlayſon*, for the Presbytry of *Irving*; Mr. *John Ritchie*, and Mr. *Alexander King* for the Presbytry of *Dumbarton*; Mr. *Patrick Simſon*, Mr. *Andrew Turner*, and Mr. *Robert Tylour*, for the Presbytry of *Paiſley*; Mr. *William Dunlop*, Mr. *Neil Gillies*, and Mr. *John*

Govean, for the Presbytry of *Glaſgow*; Mr. *Robert Wyllie*, and Mr. *John Hamilton*, for the Presbytry of *Hamiltoun*; Mr. *Thomas Linning*, and Mr. *John Bannatyne*, for the Presbytry of *Lanerick* Miniſters: *George* Earl of *Melvil* Lord Preſident of the Privy Council, *George* Earl of *Sutherland*, *John* Earl of *Tullibardine*, *Charles* Lord *Teſter*, *William* Lord *Forbes*, *John* Lord *Belhaven*, *James* Maſter of *Carmichael*, Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* of *Northberwick* Lord Preſident of the Seſſion, *Adam Cockburn* of *Ormieſtoun* Lord Theſaurer Depute, Sir *James Stewart* of *Goodtrees* Lord Advocate, Sir *Coline Campbel* of *Aberuchel*, Sir *John Hamilton*, of *Halcraig*, Sir *David Home* of *Croſsrig* three of the Lords of Seſſion, Mr. *John Campbel* Brother to the Earl of *Argyle*, Mr. *Francis Montgomery* of *Giffan*, Colonel *John Erskine* of *Caridden*, Sir *Coline Campbel* of *Ardkinlaſs*, Sir *John Home* of *Blaccader*, Sir *John Swinton* of that Ilk, Sir *William Cunninghame* of *Cunninghame-Head*, Sir *Archibald Mure* of *Thorntoun*, Sir *John Clerk* of *Penmytook*, Sir *William Baird* of *Newbaith*, Sir *Adam Gordon* of *Dalfoly*, Sir *Thomas Burnet* His Majeſtie's Phyſician, *William Ballie* of *Lamingtoun*, *Adam Drummond* of *Meggins*, *George Moncrief* of *Reedie*, *Duncan Forbes* of *Colloden*, *Thomas Kilpatrick* of *Cloſeburn* younger, Captain *John Erskine*, *George Home* of *Kello*, Lord Provoſt of *Edinburgh*, *Thomas Mitchel* Provoſt of *Aberdeen*, *John Anderſon* of *Dowhil* Provoſt of *Glaſgow*, *Walter Stewart* of *Pardivan*, *James Young* of *Neatherfield*, *William Muir* of *Glanderſtoun*, Mr. *James Boſwel* of *Auchinleck* Advocat, *Adam Broun* preſent Baillie in *Edinburgh*, *James Mackclurg* Dean of Gild thereof, *Hugh Blair* late Dean of Gild there, Mr. *Archibald Dickſon* of *Towrlands*, and Mr. *Robert Cook* Advocat Ruleing Elders; To be Commiſſioners of the General Aſſembly, to the effect before and after mentioned; With full power, and Commiſſion to the ſaids Perſons, or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared, to be any *Fifteen* of the ſaids Commiſſioners, whereof *Nine*, are always to be *Miniſters*, To meet and conveen within the Aſſembly-Houſe at *Edinburgh* the *Firſt* day after the Diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at Ten Hours in the Forenoon, and afterwards to meet, the *ſecond Wedneſday of March*, and *firſt Wedneſdays of June*, *September*, and *December*, and oftner, where, and when they ſhall think needful and convenient; with power to the ſaid Commiſſion, to chuſe their own Moderator and Clerk. And ſicklike the General Aſſembly fully Empowers, and Authorizes the ſaids Commiſſioners, or their *Quorum*, to Conſider, Cognoſce, and finally Determine, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, in every thing contained in, and conform to the Inſtructions given them by this Aſſembly, as fully and freely as if the ſame were in theſe preſents, at full length inſert, and

ſet

ſet down: As alſo to Conſider, Cognoſce, and finally Determine, in all References, Appeals, and other matters, particularly Referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Aſſembly; All which are holden as herein expreſt; And the General Aſſembly doth hereby prohibite, and Diſcharge the ſaids Commiſſioners to medle, in any other matters, then what is contained herein; Declaring alſo, that in and for their Actings, they ſhall be countable to and Cenſurable by, the next enſueing General Aſſembly of this Church; And laſtly declares, that this Commiſſion ſhall continue untill the meeting, of the next General Aſſembly.

XX.

Inſtructions to the Commiſſion, appointed by the General Aſſembly, to meet at Edinburgh,

Eadem Seſſione.

I. THAT this Commiſſion, as often as they ſhall ſee cauſe, apply to the Government, or any Magiſtrate, for their countenanceing of, and concurring with the Judicatories of the Church, in what the Law allows, and for putting the Laws in Execution, againſt Prophaneneſs, and Regulating the *Poor*, by providing Maintainance, and Labour for them; and particularly, anent ſettling Vacant Congregations, and redreſſing any Grievances, which may fall out.

II That when any of the Miniſters, who ſerved under the late Prelacy, whoſe Lives and Doctrines may render them uſeful to this Churh, Do apply for Reception into the Government; The General Aſſembly do Empower, and Recommend to this Commiſſion, that they receive them according to the *13th* ¶. of the *16th* Act of the General Aſſembly 1697.

III. That this Commiſſion, in Diſpoſal of his *Majeſtie's* Gifts to this Church, do particularly take care, that the Encouragement granted by the laſt Aſſembly, to *Probationers*, who are to go *North*, to preach, be rendered effectual; and that they cauſe defray the extraordinary Charges, that ſeveral Miniſters of the *North*, have been at, in carrying on the *Planting* of the *North*, and other publick Affairs, of the Church there: And for defraying the Charges of theſe ſent on Commiſſions, and of ſuch *Probationers*, as ſhall yet be ſent, to the *North*, particularly *Caithneſs Orknay* and *Zetland*.

IV. The Commiſſion is to Cognoſce, and finally Determine, in all References made to them by this Aſſembly, and in all References and Appeals, for *tranſporting Mi-*

niſters to the North, which ſhall be orderly brought before them, according to the Overtures made thereanent, the laſt Aſſembly.

V. This Commiſſion is alſo to Correſpond with the State, anent *Faſts*, and *Thankſgivings*, as occaſion requires, and toſpecify the Cauſes thereof.

VI. This Commiſſion is to give *Advice* and *Aſſiſtance*, to any *Synod* or *Presbytry*, in difficult caſes, as they ſhall be applyed unto by them, for that Effect.

VII. That this Commiſſion be careful to ſupply, with good and able Miniſters, the Ships and Colonies of the *African* and *Indian Company* as they ſhall be applyed unto, by the Court of Directors of the ſaid Company, from time to time, and to ſend Miniſters to them, either by Miſſion, Ordination, or Tranſportation; And it is referred to this Commiſſion to facilitate, by all means poſſible, their proviſion with Miniſters, and to do every thing, for the encouragement of theſe that are, or afterward ſhall be ſent; In regard, this General Aſſembly cannot overtake it.

VIII. This Commiſſion is empowered, to enquire how the *Miniſters tranſported*, by this General Aſſembly, or ſhall be tranſported, by their Commiſſion *obey*; And in caſe of Diſobedience, that they ſuſpend the Diſobedient Perſons, for three Moneths, and in caſe they do not obey after the three *Moneths* are elapſed, That then they be depoſed *Simpliciter*: And this particularly to be applyed; in the Caſe of Mr. *David Pitcairn*, formerly tranſported from *Creich* to *Forreſſe*, if he diſobey.

IX. This Commiſſion, or their Moderator, in the Intervalls of the Commiſſion, are Empowered to receive Calls, legaly proceeded in, and to tranſmitt them, to the reſpective Presbyteries intereſted, and in caſe of References, or Appeals, to the ſaid Commiſſion, That they finally determine therein, According to the former Acts of Aſſemblies, for expediteing Tranſportations, to the *North*.

X. This Commiſſion is to give all due Encouragement, and Aſſiſtance to any propoſals, may be made to them, anent Endeavours for *Reformation of Manners*, and for the effectual Curbing of Prophanity; And that they apply in a competent manner, to the Government for that End.

XI This Commiſſion is to look out for ſome perſons, who may be fit to be Clerk to the General Aſſembly, and propoſe them to the next Aſſembly.

XXI.

Act anent the Supply of the North *with Miniſters and Probationers.*

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly taking to Conſideration, That there are yet ſeveral Vacant Kirks in the *North* Did and hereby do, Enact and Appoint, That Nine Actual Miniſters be ſent in manner aftermentioned, for Supplying thereof each Four Moneths untill the next Aſſembly, begining the Firſt Day of *March* next; Five whereof to the Province of *Angus* and *Mearns*, of which three to the united Presbytries of *Dundee*, *Meegle* and *Forfar*; And Two to the united Presbytry of *Brechen*, *Aberbrothick* and *Mearns*; Item, Two to the Province of *Aberdeen*, till Mr. *Thomas Blackwal* be Admitted there, and one only thereafter; Item, Two to the Province of *Murray*, to be proportioned as followes, *viz.* The Provincial Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Aire*, is to ſend three Actual Miniſters, of which one to the united Presbytries of *Dundee*, *Meegle* and *Forfar*, One to the united Presbytries of *Brechen*, *Aberbrothick* and *Mearns*, And One to *Aberdeen*; Item, the Provincial Synod of *Fife*, is to ſend One Actual Miniſter, to the Province of *Murray*; and the Provincial Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, is to ſend One Actual Miniſter, to the Province of *Aberdeen*; Item, the Provincial Synod of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, is to ſend One Actual Miniſter to the Presbytries of *Brechen*, *Aberbrothick* and *Mearns*; Item, the Provincial Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, is to ſend Three Actual Miniſters, whereof One to the united Presbytries of *Dundee*, *Meegle* and *Forfar*, One to *Aberdeen*, And One to the Province of *Murray*: But after Mr. *Thomas Blackwal* is ſetled at *Aberdeen*, the ſaid Synod of *Lothian*, is to be eaſed of the Supply of that place.

And likeways the General Aſſembly does hereby Enact and Appoint, That Eighteen Probationers be ſent *North*, of which Six are to be ſent to the Province of *Angus* and *Mearns*, *viz.* Three to the united Presbytries of *Meegle*, *Dundee* and *Forfar*, Three to the united Presbytries of *Brechen*, *Aberbrothick*, and *Mearns*, Item, Five to the Province of *Aberdeen*, whereof One is to have the *Iriſh* Language; Item, Five to the Province of *Murray*, whereof Two are to have the *Iriſh* Language; Item, One to the Presbytry of *Zetland*; And laſtly, One having *Iriſh* to the Bounds of the Presbytry of *Dunkeld*: And it is hereby declared, That the ſaids Probationers are to be ſent on the ſame Terms and Conditions, and with the ſame Encouragements, that the Twenty Probationers were ſent by the laſt Aſſembly.

XXII.

Act and Recommendation, anent Mortifications, and Viſitations of Pariſhes.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly recommends, to all Presbyteries to be diligent and careful, in Viſiteing the Pariſhes, within their Bounds, and take particular notice, how all Sums of Money mortified, or otherwiſe belonging to the Poor of the Pariſh, have been managed, and applyed, from time to time; And if they ſhall find any Dilapidations of any ſuch Sums, that theſe guilty thereof, may be purſued, according to Law: And that the ſeveral Synods, take Account of the Presbyteries within their Bounds, their Diligence therein.

XXIII.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters, and Elders, for viſiteing the Presbytery of Midlebee.

At Edinburgh the 20 day of February 1700.

Ante Merid: Seſſ: 19:

THE General Aſſembly, having heard the report of the Committee for Overtures, anent the Grievances, repreſented by the Commiſſioners from the Presbytry of *Midlebee*, Judged that in regard the Greiveances of the ſaid Presbytry, are ſo exceedingly great, It is expedient that a Committee ſhould be appointed to go thither, againſt the end of *July*, to conſider theſe Grievances, and to do what they can for remedy thereof; And that betwixt and that time, the Synod of *Drumfrees*, either by themſelves, or Committee, do what they can to remedy theſe Grievances: And that accordingly, if they obtain any good Effect, the ſaid Presbytry is to advertiſe the Committee of this Aſſembly, not to come. And the General Aſſembly does hereby declare, that there ſhall be no Tranſportations, from that Presbytry, till the next General Aſſembly, without their own conſent, upon any Calls to be given; But it is always declared, that this is but prejudice, of any Proceſſes, already commenced. And the General Aſſembly, Nominats, and Appoints, Mr. *Gabriel Semple Miniſter at Jedburgh*, Mr. *John Bannatyne at Lanerick*, Mr. *George Mullekine at Moffat*, Mr. *Matthew Reid at North-*

Northberwick, Mr. *Alexander Orrock at Hawick*, Mr. *Nicol Edgar at Hopkirk* Mr. *James Guthrie at Irongray, and* Mr. *Robert Blair at Holy-wood* Ministers, The *Lairds of Falnash* and *Whitelaw* Ruleing Elders, to be Members of the said Committee, to meet at *Langholm* the last Wednesday of *July* next, with the Members of the said Presbytry of *Midlebee*; And the said Committee are hereby empowered to chuse their own Moderator and Clerk, and to proceed against all persons guilty of gross Immoralities, according to the Acts of the General Assembly, and Order and Discipline of this Church; and to endeavour to remove the Grievances of the Brethren of the said Presbytry, and in order thereunto to visite the said Presbytry, in the usual manner; And endeavour to obtain the Assistance of persons of Interest and Quality, in these parts to render the Actings and Proceedings of Church Judicatories, the more Effectual: And this Committee is to be countable to, and Censureable by the next General Assembly.

XXIV.

Act for Rendering Effectual, the Supplies of the North.

At Edinburgh, 20 of February 1700. *Post Merid*: Sess. 20.

THE General Assembly does hereby declare, that all former Acts, for rendering effectual the Supply of the North with Ministers, not expresly rescinded, shall be in full force, and Referrs to the Commission, to see to the Execution thereof.

XXV

OVERTURES, Tranſmitted by the General Aſſembly held in the year 1700, to the ſeveral Presbytries, within this National Church; That they may conſider the ſame, and ſend their Opinion thereanent, to the next General Aſſembly, who may paſs the ſame in Acts, if the more general Opinion of this Church agree thereunto.

Anent Commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, and their ſubſcribing the Confeſſion of Faith.

1 THAT all Commiſſions to Miniſters and Elders, from Presbyteries, Univerſities, and Royal Burghs, to ſubſequent Aſſemblies, bear, that they have ſubſcribed the Confeſſion of Faith of this Church, according to the 11*th*, Act of this Aſſembly.

2 That no Miniſter or Elder be Nominate and Commiſſionate, to be a Member of the General Aſſembly of this Church, by any Presbytry, Burgh or Univerſity, But ſuch who uſually reſide in, and have a Relation to the Preſbytry Burgh or Univerſity, they are commiſſioned from.

Anent Citations, in caſes of Tranſportation of Miniſters.

3 THAT in caſes of Tranſportation, when the defending Party and Pariſh, are to be ſummoned, that the Miniſter himſelf being ſummoned *apud Acta* at the Presbytry, or if abſent by the Presbytries letter to be preſent, at the day appointed, for hearing the cauſe, he alſo be ordered, to intimate out of the Pulpit, to Heritors, Elders, and others concerned in the Pariſh, That there is ſuch a Call, and ſuch a Tranſportation deſigned; And if any of them have a mind to defend their Right in their Miniſter, they are to be preſent at the Presbytry, on ſuch a day, and ready to make their Defences, for which purpoſe the Call with the Reaſons thereof, are to be given or tranſmitted to the Miniſter, by him to be communicate to them; This courſe will prevent the rableing of Meſſengers, by the unruly Mob, and horrid prophanation of the Lords Day, which falls out in ſome caſes.

Which Overture, being conſidered by the General Aſſembly they allow thereof if the Presbytry concerned, ſhall ſee cauſe to take that Courſe, and declares that it ſhall be a valide Citation, it being always optional to the Presbytry to follow this courſe, or to do it by their Officiar as formerly.

The

XXVI

THE next General Aſſembly of this National Church, is to be held at *Edinburgh*, the *Nineteenth* day of *February* in the year One Thouſand ſeven hundred and one.

The Aſſembly being cloſed, the members were diſmiſſed with prayer, ſinging the 122 *Pſalm from* 6 *Verſe, to the end; And pronouncing of the Bleſſing.*

Collected and Extracted from the Records, of the General Aſſembly. By me
J. Bannatyne *Cls Syn. National.*

A

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Act for Supplying Mr. *Alexander Scheilds*, his Charge at St. *Andrews*. *Ibid.*

Advice to the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, anent Citation of Delinquents. *Ibid.*

Act of the General Aſſembly anent Mr. *Hugh Mackhenry*,

with a Reference to their Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, concerning him, and ſome papers produced by him. *Ibid.*

Act anent Planting of *Dumfermline*, with a Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh* thereanent. *Ibid.*

A Committee of Miniſters, appointed to attend the Lords of Council and Juſticiary anent Witchcraft, when called thereunto by their Lordſhips. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to the Commiſſion of Parliament for Plantation of Kirks, in favours of the Miniſter of *Birſe*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, anent Planting another Miniſter in *South-Leith*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, in favours of Mr. *John Gilchriſt*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſions for the *North* and at *Edinburgh*, anent the Petition of *Longforgone*, and Mr. *Patrick Lyon*. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to the Commiſſion of Parliament, for Plantation of Kirks, in favours of the new Erection of *Sauchinfoord*. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to the Commiſſion of Parliament, for Plantation of Kirks *&c.* in favours of the Miniſter of *Newcumnock*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh* anent the People of *Kinneel*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh* anent *Bruce* of *Clackmanan*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, anent the Affair of *Jinglekirk* and Mr. *Charles Lindſay*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh* anent Mr. *William Abercrombies* Petition. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, in favours of Mr. *James Thomſon* at *Elgine*. *Ibid.*

The Liſt of Probationers, and Students ordered to be given in to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*. *Ibid.*

Acts appointing Mr. *David Shaw* Miniſter at *Aberdalgie* to go in ſupply to the Province of *Aberdeen*, and Mr. *Thomas Bervil* to *Murray*. *Ibid.*

The Miniſter of *Eccles*, appointed to perform the Miniſterial Function to the people of *Banghouſewalls*, and a Reference to the Synod of *Merſe* thereanent *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion for *Zetland*, and Presbytry of *Orkney*, in favours of Mr. *Richard Mein*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh* to apply to the Council anent Incorrect Bibles. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh* anent Mr. *John Bannatynes* Petition for his Salary. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, anent the Petition, of the Officiars, that attends the Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

Committee for reviſeing the Minuts of this Aſſembly *Ibid.*

FINIS.

THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly,

OF THE

CHURCH

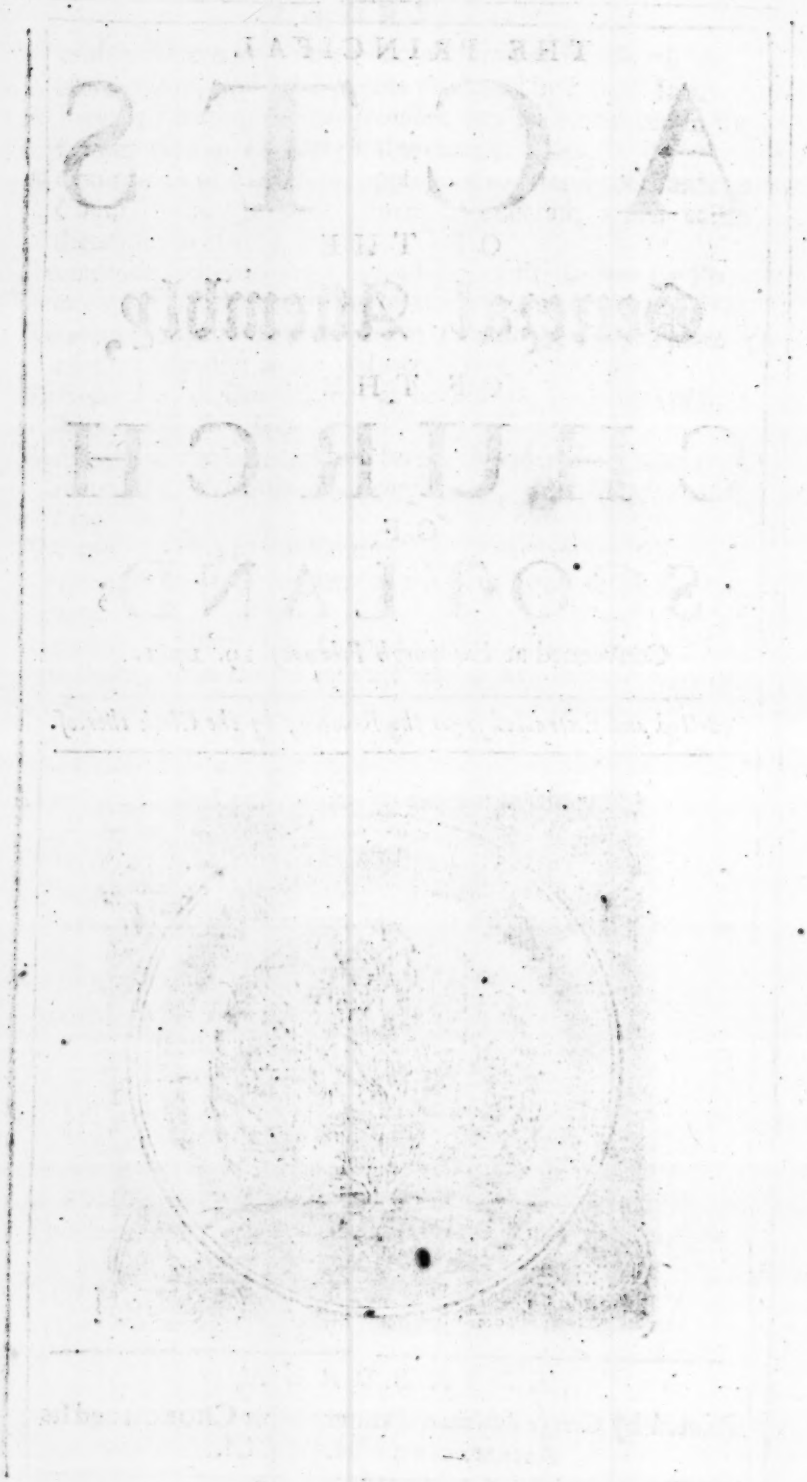
OF

SCOTLAND;

Conveened at *Edinburgh February* 19. 1701.

Collected and Extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH,
Printed by *George Mosman*, Printer to this CHURCH and Its ASSEMBLIES. M. DCCI.



THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Aſſembly,

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND;

Holden and Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 19 day of *February*, And ending the 10 day of *March* 1701.

I.

The Recording of His Majeſtie's Commiſſion, to William *Earl of* Annandale, *for Repreſenting His Majeſties Royal Perſon, in this* Aſſembly.

At *Edinburgh*, 19 *February*, 1701. Seſſ. 1.

THIS Day, the General Aſſembly of the Miniſters and Elders of this National Church, being conveened and conſtitute, there was produced to them, by a Noble Lord, *William* Earle of *Annandale*, His *Majeſties* Commiſſion under the Great Seal of this Kingdom, Nominating and Appointing him, to be *His Majeſtie's High Commiſſioner*, and Repreſentative in this *National Aſſembly*; which was publickly Read in their Audience, with all due Honour and Reſpect; And appointed to be Recorded, in the Regiſters of this *Aſſembly*: Therein to remain, *ad futuram Rei Memoriam.* The Tenor whereof follows.

" GULIELMUS, Dei Gratia, Magnæ *Britanniæ*, *Franciæ*, *&*
" *Hiberniæ* Rex, Fideique Defensor, *Omnibus* Probis Homi-
" nibus, ad quos præsentes Literæ nostræ pervenerint, *Salutem*:
" Quandoquidem, Ex Decreto nostro, Generalis *Ecclesiæ* Con-
" ventus Antiquioris Regni nostri *Scotiæ*, In *decimum nonum*
" *Diem* Mensis *Februarii*, *Anno Domini*, Millesimo Septin-
" gentesimo & Primo Continuatus erat; Nosque aut em a-
" bunde Cupidi, Quin etiam necessarium esse Judicantes, in
" commodum dictæ Ecclesiæ, ut idem Generalis Conventus
" die statuto debite observetur: Sed Rebus magni momen-
" ti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui interesse nequimus;
" Cumque Testimoniis permultis & probatis abunde nobis sa-
" tisfactum sit, de præclaris animi dotibus & fide eximia,
" fidelissimi & prædilectissimi nostri Consanguinei & con-
" ciliarii, *Gulielmi* Comitis de *Annandale*, Quod ad mune-
" ra Summi Officii inframentionati rite excercenda & obeun-
" da, in finem supra expressum usquequaque est idoneus:
" *Noveritis* igitur nos nominasse & constituisse, sicuti per hæ-
" ce nostras patentes Literas, *Nominamus* & *Constituimus*,
" eundem *Gulielmum Comitem* de *Annandale*, Supremum no-
" strum *Commissionarium*, quoad effectum infra mentionatum:
" *Damus* pariter & *Concedimus* Illi, Sacram nostram Personam,
" & Authoritatem nostram Regalem Repræsentandi, præ-
" sentiam nostram supplendi, locumque nostrum, in dicto
" subsequenti Generali Conventu, tanquam Commissionario
" nostro in hunc effectum specialiter constituto, Tenendi;
" Omniaque alia, ad Imperium & Munus Commissionarii,
" pro Generali Ecclesiæ Conventu peragendi, tam plene a-
" deoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius,
" ejusdem supremi muneris & Characteris fecerat, seu quo-
" vis tempore retroacto facere poterat; Atque sicuti nos ipsi
" personaliter præsentes, facere poterimus, plenissimam & am-
" plissimam nostram potestatem & Commissionem. *Quæqui-*
" *dem* omnia & singula, a dicto *Gulielmo* Comite de *Annan-*
" *dale*, in hac nostra Commissione prosequenda, legitime fa-
" cienda, nos firmiter Approbamus, Rata habemus, & habi-
" turi sumus. *Omnibus* & *Singulis* insuper, antedicti Con-
" ventus & Ecclesiæ Pastoribus & Presbyteris, & cæteris
" quibuscunque hujus nostri *Regni* subditis, cujuscunque
" qualitatis & conditionis, ut dictum *Gulielmum* Comitem de
" *Annandale*, tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionari-
" um, quoad effectum & modum supramentionatum, Ag-
" noscant Revereantur & dicto ipsius audientes, se præbe-
" ant, stricte Mandamus & Imperamus. *Ac denique*, hanc
" nostram Commissionem, a die quo magnum hujus Regni
" nostri Sigillum, præsentibus est appensum, & deinceps
" hac Sessione sequenti Generalis Conventus antedicti, in vi-

gore

"vigore continuare declaravimus, & per præsentes declara-
"mus; Saltem usque dum a nobis revocabitur. *In cujus*
"*Rei Testimonium*, magnum Sigillum nostrum, præsentibus
"appendi præcepimus, *Apud* Aulam nostram de *Kensingtoun*,
"Septimo die Mensis *Februarii*, *Anno Domini*, Millesimo
"Septingentesimo Primo, & *Anno* Regni nostri Duodecimo.

Per Signaturam Manu S. D. N. *Regis supra signatum.*

{ Locus Sigilli Appensi }

In DORSO.

Written to the Great Seal and Registrat the eighteen day of February 1701. *Sic Subscribitur Charles Ker*

Sealed at Edinburgh, *the eighteen day of* February 1701. *Sic Subscribitur* Al. Home.

II.

His MAJESTIE'S Gracious LETTER,

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Eadem Sessione.

THE which Day, His Majestie's High Commissioner presented His Majesties most Gracious Letter, directed to this *General Assembly*, which was publickly Read in their Hearing, with all due Honour and Respect, and appointed to be Recorded in the Registers of this Assembly, the Tenor whereof follows.

WILLIAM R.

RIGHT Reverend and well Beloved, we Greet You well. The Proofs we have had of Your Affection, to our Perſon aad Government, and of Your Good Conduct, and Management in the Laſt and former Aſſemblies, gives us full Confidence of your meeting at this time, in the ſame Good Diſpoſition: We think it not neceſſary on this Occaſion, to Repeat the Aſſurances we have often given you, of our Reſolution to maintain the Government of the Church, as it is now eſtabliſhed; Not doubting, but you are ſufficiently convinced of it: As alſo of our Readineſs to countenance and protect you, in your Endeavours to preſerve the Purity of the Chriſtian Doctrine, to promote Piety, and Settle Good Order, in the Church. We have thought fit to appoint our right Truſty, and Entirely Beloved Couſin and Councellor, *William* Earl of *Annandale*, to Repreſent our Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly, whoſe Abilities and Fitneſs to Diſcharge this Truſt, will (we doubt not) render him acceptable unto you: Him we have fully Inſtructed, in what may be further neceſſary; And therefore, you may give him entire Truſt, and Credit. So Recommending to you, calmneſs and unanimity in your Proceedings, and the avoiding unſeaſonable Queſtions and Debates, which you muſt be ſenſible, may be of bad conſequence in this Juncture, We bid you Heartily Farewell.

Given at our Court at Kenſingtoun, *the 7th Day of Febru-ary* 1701. *And of our Reign the* 12 *Year.*

By His Majeſtie's *Command,*

RO: PRINGLE.

To the Right Reverend and well Beloved, The Moderator, Miniſters, *and* Elders, *of the* General Aſſembly, *of the Church of* Scotland.

III. *The*

III.

The General Aſſemblies *Anſwer*, TO His Majeſtie's Gracious Letter.

At Edinburgh, 24 *February* 1701. *Ante Merid*: Seſſ. 4.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

THE renewed and repeated Evidences, of Your Majeſties tender Care and Concern for this Church, ſo fully ſignified in Your Gracious Letter, have been received and entertained by us, with all Satisfaction and thankfull Acknowledgement. And we do further acknowledge the ſignal Proof we have lately had thereof, by Your *Majeſtie's* giving the Royal aſſent, in this laſt Seſſion of of Parliament, to the Acts therein made for Ratifying and further confirming our Confeſſion of Faith, and the preſent eſtabliſhed Presbyterian Government of this Church, for the more effectual preventing of the Grouth of Popery, and for ſuppreſſing Prophaneneſs and Immoralities; All which do lay a new Obligation on us, to endeavour the preſerving of the Purity of the Chriſtian Doctrine, the promoting of Piety, and the Settling of Good Order in the Church; which we acknowledge to be already our Duty, according to the Truſt committed to us, by our Great Lord and Maſter Jeſus Chriſt, the only head of this Church, and in doing whereof, Your Majeſty is pleaſed to aſſure us of Your Royal Protection and Countenance. We are reſolved, alſo by the Grace of God, and through his Strength, to obſerve that Calmneſs and Unanimity in our proceedings, which do ſo much become us in the Station wherein God has placed us, and which your Majeſty recommends unto us, and to avoid unſeaſonable Queſtions and Debates, which we are all convinced and perſwaded, would be a matter of bad and dangerous conſequence at all times, and eſpecially in this Juncture.

The *Earl* of *Annandale*, whom Your Majeſty has made choice of, to Repreſent Your Royal Perſon, and to give

Countenance and Protection to this *Aſſembly*, Is for his Fitneſs and Abilities, As alſo for the Good Offices he has done this Church, in the other Honourable Stations, wherein he hath been employed under Your Majeſty, very Acceptable.

Give us leave *Great Sir* to take notice, That the laſt *Aſſembly* having given Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters of their Number to travel to the moſt Nothren Parts of this Your Ancient Kingdom, the Iſlands of *Orknay* and *Zetland*, for Planting Churches and Advanceing the Knowledge of *God* amongſt that people; They have in a good Meaſure Executed the ſame: And we are ſenſible of the Favour of Your *Majeſtie's* Bounty, for promoveing ſo good and neceſſary a Work, and which we know will not be wanting to Advance and render it compleat.

That Your *Majeſties Reign* may be long and proſperous, that you may be Guided and Directed of *God*, in the Great and Weighty Affairs of Your Government, and that Your Councils and Undertakings may be ſtill ſucceſsful, for Preſerving and Defending the Reformed Religion and the Proteſtant Intereſt, at Home and Abroad; Are the Earneſt and Fervent Prayers of

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſtie's Moſt Faithful, Moſt Obedient, and Moſt Humble Subjects,

The Miniſters, and Elders, met in this National Aſſembly, of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in Our Preſence, in Our Name, and at Our Appointment by,

Tho: Wilkie Moderator.

IV.

Act anent the Overtures tranſmitted, by the laſt General Aſſembly to Presbyteries.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE *General Aſſembly*, taking to their Conſideration, the three Printed Overtures tranſmitted by the laſt Aſſembly to the ſeveral Presbyteries; and finding by the Report of the Committee for Overtures, that there are not Reports ſent in, but by a very few Presbyteries, and that only ſome of ſuch as are ſent Do approve *ſimpliciter* the ſaids three Overtures, So that it does not yet appear, that the more General Opinion of this Church agreeeth thereto: Therefore the *General Aſſembly Appointed* the ſaids three Overtures to be again tranſmitted; *Likeas* they hereby *Tranſmit* the ſame, to the ſeveral Presbyteries within this National Church, and *Appoints* them to ſend in diſtinct Reports in Writt, of their Opinion thereanent, to the next *General Aſſembly*, and that the Reports be in Papers apart, under the Hand of the Moderator and Clerk of the Presbytery.

V.

Approbation of the Actings and Proceedings, of the Commiſſion of the laſt General Aſſembly, appointed to meet at Edinburgh.

At Edinburgh, *the* 27 *of February* 1701,

Ante Meridiem, Seſſ. 8.

THE *General Aſſembly*, having had this Day reproduced in their Preſence, the *Regiſter* of the Actings and Proceedings of the *Commiſſioners*, appointed by the late General Aſſembly to meet at *Edinburgh*, and having heard the Report and Obſerves of a Committee of this Aſſemblies own Number (that were not Members of that Commiſſion) appointed to Reviſe Examine and Conſider the ſaid Regiſter, all the Members of the ſaid Commiſſion, (whereof the Moderator was one) were deſired to remove, and Mr. *James Hay* being choſen Moderator *pro tempore*, It was deſired by him, that if any perſons had any Thing to Object againſt the Conduct or Proceedings of the ſaid Commiſſion, they might propoſe the ſame, And the *Aſſembly* having heard all that was repreſented to them thereanent;

nent; Together with the Anſwers made thereto, by the Moderator and other Members of the ſaid Commiſſion; And having ſeriouſly and maturely conſidered the ſame, and finding by the ſaid Report, that the whole Actings, Proceedings and Concluſions of the ſaid Commiſſioners, contained in the ſaid Regiſter, Subſcribed by Mr. *George Meldrum* Moderator, and *Nicol Spence* Under-Clerk of the ſaid Commiſſion, beginning the 21. Day of *February* 1700 Years, and ending the 18 of *February* current, do evidence much Wiſdom, Prudence, Diligence, and Faithfulneſs, and that the ſaid Commiſſion have proceeded orderly and formally in the things that came before them, according to their Commiſſion and Inſtructions: *Therefore* this *General Aſſembly* by their Vote did, and hereby do *Ratify* and *Approve* the ſaids Actings, Proceedings and Concluſions of the ſaids Commiſſioners contained in the Regiſter thereof, And the Members of the Commiſſion being called in, the ſame was Intimate to them, and the *Moderator* gave them the Thanks of this Aſſembly, for their good Service, and then the *Moderator* of this Aſſembly took his Place.

VI.

Act anent the Supply of the North with Miniſters and Probationers.

At Edinburgh *the* 4 *day of* March 1701.

Ante Meridiem, Seſſ. 13.

THE General Aſſembly takeing to conſideration that there are yet ſome Vacant Kirks in the North, did and hereby do *Enact* and *Appoint*, that four actual Miniſters be ſent in manner aftermentioned, for Supplying thereof, from the firſt of *Aprile* next, till the next General Aſſembly, *Two* whereof to be ſent to the United Presbyteries of *Dundee*, *Meegle*, and *Forfar*, *One* to the United Presbyteries of *Brechen* and *Aberbrothwick*, and *One* to the Province of *Murray*, to be proportioned as follows. *Viz*: The Provincial Synod of *Lowthian* and *Tweeddale* to ſend *One* actual Miniſter quarterly, to ſupply the Province of *Murray*, the provincial Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air* to ſend *One* actual Miniſter quarterly, to ſupply the United Presbyteries of *Dundee*, *Meegle*, and *Forfar*, the provincial Synod of *Fife* to ſend *One* actual Miniſter quarterly, to ſupply the United Presbyteries of *Brechen* and *Aberbrothwick*, the Synod of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, with the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling* to ſend *One* actual Miniſter quarterly, to Supply the United Presbyteries of *Dundee Meegle* and *Forfar*. *Viz*: *Merſe* and *Teviotdale* for the *firſt* three Quarters, and *Perth* and

Stirling

Stirling for the *last* Quarter; And because the foresaid Synods cannot now meet to send up the first three Moneths Supply timeously. *Therefore* the General Assembly do hereby *appoint* the said *First* three Months Supply to be made as follows. *viz.* By Mr. *Walter Allan* Minister at *Caling town* for the Synod of *Lowthian* and *Tweeddale*, By Mr. *Francis Finlayson* Minister of *Kilmarnock*, for the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, By Mr. *Patrick Tullidelph* Minister at *Ferrie Parton Craig*, for the Synod of *Fife*, And by Mr. *William Millar* Minister at *Churnsid*, for the Synod of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*. *And Sicklike*, the General Assembly do hereby *Enact* and *Appoint* that *Seventeen Probationers* be sent North, of which *Two* to the United Presbyteries of *Dundee Meegle and Forfar*. *Two* to the United Presbyteries of *Brechen* and *Aberbrothwick*, *Four* to the Province of *Murray*, *Two* of them having the *Irish Language*, *Three* to *Ross* and *Sutherland*, all of them having *Irish*, *Three* to *Caitness*, *One* to *Orkney*, and *Two* to *Zetland*: And it is hereby *Declared*, That the said Probationers are to be sent on the same Terms, and with the same Encouragements given to Probationers, sent by former Assemblies and their Commissions: And what further relates to the Nomination and other Things requisite to this Mission of Probationers; The General Assembly Referrs the same to their subsequent Commission.

VII.

Act disjoyning the Provincial Synod of Angus *and* Mearns, *from the Synod of* Aberdeen.

At Edinburgh, *the* 4 *of* March 1701,

Ante Meridiem, Sess. 13.

THE General Assembly having heard the Opinion of the *Commission* sent by the last Assembly, to the Provinces of *Angus*, *Mearns* and *Aberdeen*, anent the Affair aftermentioned: And finding that there are now a competent Number of Ministers legally Settled in the said Provinces, do therefore *Appoint* them to meet in time comeing in two distinct Synods, in their usual places of meeting, according to the Act of the General Assembly held in the Year 1638: Intituled *Act anent the Order of the Provincial Assemblies in* Scotland, *according to the Presbyteries therein contained*; And that the next meeting of the Synod of *Aberdeen*, be at the time and place appointed at their last Sederunt. And as to the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, the General Assembly does hereby appoint their first meeting to be at *Dundee* upon the *third Tuesday* of *Aprile* next, and that the Synods aftermamed send the following Number of Ministers as *Correspondents*

pondents, to the Provincial Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*. *viz:* The Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale Two*, the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling Three*, the Synod of *Fife Four*, and the Synod of *Aberdeen Two*, and this Correſpondence to continue till the General Aſſembly ſhall ſee cauſe to alter it.

VIII.

Recommendation to Synods, *anent maintaining* Burſars of Theology *having the* Iriſh Language.

At Edinburgh, *the* 4 *of* March 1701,

Poſt Meridiem Seſſ. 14.

THE General Aſſembly taking to their Conſideration The Great Scarcity of Probationers having the Iriſh Language, to Supply the Vacancies of the *North Highlands*, notwithſtanding there are ſeveral Young Men who might be uſeful in theſe places, if they had due Encouragement to proſecute their Studies, *Therefore* the General Aſſembly *Recommend* to the Synods aſtermentioned, that they maintain *Burſars* of *Theologie* having the *Iriſh Language*, beſides the uſual Presbytery Burſars, and that out of the Miniſters of the ſaids Synods their own proper Money, and that this be done as follows. *Viz.* That the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, The Synod of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, The Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air*, The Synod of *Argyle*, The Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, and the Synod of *Fife*, *Each* of them maintain *One* Burſar, the Synods of *Drumfrees* and *Galloway One*, and the Synods of *Angus Mearns* and *Aberdeen One*: And it is *Recommended* to the forſaid Synods, to proportion the *Quota* of the Maintainance, to be given to the ſaids Burſars, among themſelves, which is at Leaſt to be *Ten Pound Sterling*, the one half whereof to be Collected and Advanced at every Synod, Beginning at the next enſueing Synod; And that the ſaid Synod-Books bear an Account of their Diligence in the ſame, and that each of the ſaids Burſars continue four Years at the profeſſion of Theology, as other Burſars do; And it is hereby *Recommended* to all Presbyteries that they ſearch out for any ſuch well Qualified Young Men, who have paſſed their Courſe of Philoſophy at ſome Univerſity, and ſend in their Names to the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, with ſufficient Teſtimonials, That they may be by them Recommended to the ſaid Synods, And the foreſaid Act to continue dureing the Aſſemblies pleaſure, And for enlargeing of the ſaid Funds, the General Aſſembly *Renews* and *Revives* the 9*th* Act of the General Aſſembly, 1699 *Anent Planting of the Highlands*. *Act*

I X.

Act for a Solemn National Faſt and Humiliation.

At Edinburgh *the* 4. *of* March 1701.

Poſt Meridiem Seſſ. 14.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, laying ſeriouſly to Heart, the many Tokens of GOD's Diſpleaſure, that are gone furth againſt this Land: As the many Years of Dearth and Scarcity that we have been under, whereby many have Periſhed, the Land greatly Impoveriſhed, and the number of the Poor vaſtly Increaſed: The amazing and aſtoniſhing Rebukes againſt, and Blaſting of the Undertaking of the *African* and *Indian* Company of this Nation, for advanceing the Wealth and Trade thereof, and Relief of the Poor; and that in a great meaſure from the viſible and immediat Hand of GOD, though by that Undertaking there was a fair proſpect of ſpreading the Goſpel amongſt Infidels; together with the Loſs of many of our Country-men, and even ſome of our dear and worthy Brethren in the Miniſtry, and of a great part of the Nations Treaſure and Subſtance: As alſo the ſtupendious waſting Fire in the City of *Edinburgh*, whereby its beſt Buildings have been laid in Aſhes, and many Families redacted to extream Poverty; Conſidering alſo, the many ſad and great Calamities, which threaten, not only this, but all other Reformed and Proteſtant Churches. from the preſent Alteration of the State of *Europe* ſo lately fallen out, whereby the Hands of the implacable Enemies of our Religion, ſeems to be greatly Strenthened, and Occaſion given for Executing their Wicked Deſigns, in order to the Ruine of the Reformed Religion and Proteſtant Intereſt; By all which the Reformed and Proteſtant Churches every where, and more eminentlly in thir Nations, together with our Brethren in the *United Provinces of the Low Countries*, are ſadly Threatned. And the *Aſſembly* conſidering, That our Holy and Gracious GOD doth not Afflict willingly, nor Grieve the Children of Men, nor doth He without Cauſe Threaten his People with ſuch ſad Things: We have therefore too good ground to infer, that our Sins muſt be great and hainous in the Sight of GOD, which is alſo obvious to every diſcerning Eye, the Land being filled with Wickedneſs and Abominations, Violences and Diſorders amongſt perſons of all Ranks and Degrees, for whoſe Sins, our Holy and Jealous GOD may juſtly contend with us, which are ſo much the

more agravated, that they are againſt ſo many ſolemn repeated Vows and Engagements unto, and Covenants with our GOD, which have been openly Violated and Broken by perſons of all Ranks, and treated with publick Contempt, Indignities and Affronts, the particulars are too many to be here inſert: But having been by other Aſſemblies largely and particularly Enumerat in Cauſes of *Faſts*, by them emitted, eſpecially 1690 and 1700. This Aſſembly thereto refers, in ſo far as they quadrat with our preſent Circumſtances, and Recommend to Miniſters to give an account of the ſame: Yet one thing farder is greatly to be Lamented, That though the LORD hath been for many Years calling to Weeping and to Mourning, and Publick National *Faſts* have been from time to time appointed, that we might truely humble our ſelves before GOD, Confeſs our Sins, repent of and turn from them, by renewing our Engagements unto GOD, and Covenanting with him for that end, yet the moſt part have inſtead thereof, given themſelves over to Jollity and Wantonneſs, few having Faſted unto the LORD, and Returned to him with all their Hearts.

Upon all theſe Conſiderations, This Aſſembly have thought fit, to ſet Apart a Day for Solemn Faſting and Humiliation, and the Exerciſe of ſincere and unfeigned Repentance, and for Serious Fervent and Earneſt Prayer to the Throne of Grace; which they appoint to be kept upon the Twenty Fourth Day of *April* next to come, being the laſt *Thurſday* of the ſaid Month: And do hereby earneſtly Obteſt, and in the Bowels of our Lord *Jeſus Chriſt*, Exhort and Beſeech all People, and of all Ranks, ſuitably to Prepare themſelves for ſo Solemn a Work, to deal unfeignedly and ſincerely with the LORD in this Matter, to put away the Evil of their Doings, and flee in to *Chriſt*, the Mediator of the New Covenant, and ſeek in and through Him to be Reconciled unto GOD, to take on ſincere Reſolutions and Engagements, that hence-furth they will be the LORD's, humbly depending upon him for Grace to perform accordingly, that they may earneſtly and vigouruſly ſet about ſincere and thorow Reformation of their Lives, as they would themſelves find Mercy in the day of the LORD, and have the preſent Strokes upon the Land removed, and Judgments threatned Averted. And for that end, we Recommend to all Miniſters within this Church, that they be Plain Full and Free, in holding furth the Evil of the Sins that Abound, according as they are Enumerat in the *Cauſes of Faſts* above-ſpecified, and what Sins elſe may be peculiar to any Congregation, to the end, that they, and all who ſincerely Love our Lord *Jeſus Chriſt*, may earneſtly apply to the Throne of Grace, that a Spirit of Grace and Supplication, and of ſincere and

and unfeigned Repentance may be poured out upon the Inhabitants of the Land, and for a day of the Mediators Power upon the Hearts of many, making them a willing People, that ſo they may flee to him, and make Application of his Blood for the purging and pardoning of their Sins. That the LORD would ſhine upon us in Goſpel- Ordinances, and by the powerful enlivening breathings of His Spirit, make them more Succeſsful for the Enlargement of the Kingdom of *Chriſt*, and Deſtroying Satans Kingdom, that in ſome places ſo much prevails, even by Witchcraft, Sorceries, *&c.* That of His great Bounty, and in pity and compaſſion to this poor Land, he would give ſeaſonable Weather, and thereby prevent the return of Scarcity and Dearth, and that he would alſo avert the other ſad and heavy Judgments which threaten us for our Sins. That the LORD would Deliver ſuch of His poor Churches or People, as are already under the Feet of Cruel Enemies; and protect others that are in great and imminent Hazard: And for that end, break the power of their Enemies, make their wrath to Praiſe Him, Defeat their Counſels, and turn them into Fooliſhneſs, that all may know, that he whoſe Name alone is JEHOVAH, is the moſt High over all the Earth. That GOD would preſerve and protect our King, bleſs him in his Perſon and Government, Animat him more and more with true Heroick Courage and Zeal for the Defence of the true Religion and Proteſtant Intereſt: That he would direct his Counſels, and theſe of other Proteſtant Princes and States, to ſuch meaſures, as may at this Juncture be for the Glory of GOD, the Preſervation of the True Religion and Proteſtant Churches, and the *Peace* of *Europe*. That *Piety* may flouriſh in this Land, and effectual ways may be fallen upon for that end; and both Magiſtrates, Miniſters and others in their Stations animated vigorouſly to proſecute them, for ſuppreſſing the Sins and Immoralities that abound in the Land; and for Reſtraining Idleneſs and Vagabonds, being the Occaſion and Nurſery of much Sin and Wickedneſs, and for reducing theſe to Order, Labour and Induſtry, and ſupplying the Neceſſities of Indigents; and that this Church may yet proſper, both *Peace* and Truth ſtill flouriſh in her, ſo as the LORD may yet take Delight in us, and Glory may Dwell in our Land, and have her Habitation there.

X.

Act Condemning the Book, Intituled, an Apology for M. Antonia Bourignion.

At Edinburgh, *the 5th of March* 1701.
Poſt Meridiem Seſſ. 15.

THE General Aſſembly taking to their ſerious Conſideration, a Reference made by the Commiſſion of the Late General Aſſembly ſent to *Angus, Gearns, Aberdeen, &c.* Anent Doctor *George Garden* in *Aberdeen,* alledged to be the Author of a Book Intituled, *An Apology for M. Antonia Bourignon,* with an Abreviat made by the ſaid Commiſſion of the Errors contained in the ſaid Book, They did *Appoint* a Committee of their own Number to Conſider that Affair, and to compare the ſaid Abbreviat with the foreſaid Apology, and to bring their Report and Opinion to the General Aſſembly anent the whole; And the General Aſſembly having this Day heard the Report and Opinion of the foreſaid Committee; And alſo having heard Read in their Preſence, An Abbreviat and Abſtract of ſeveral Errors excerpted furth of the ſaid Apology by the foreſaid Committee; And having likeways had produced in their preſence the ſaid Book it ſelf, The General Aſſembly *Found* the ſame to contain a Maſs of dangerous, Impious, Blaſphemous and Damnable Errors; And *Therefore* by their Unanimous Vote did, and by theſe preſents do, *Condemn* the ſaid Book called *Ane Apology for M. Antonia Bourignion.* And for preventing the ſpreading of the ſaid Errors therein contained, the General Aſſembly did by their unanimous vote, and hereby do ſeriouſly *Recommend,* to all Synods and Presbyteries within this National Church, and particularly to the Synods of *Aberdeen* and *Perth* to advert to, And Enquire anent the Spreading of he ſaids Errors, and to uſe all effectual Means for preventing the ſame; Conform to Acts of former Aſſemblies made againſt Spreadingof Errors, and particularly the Act of the General Aſſembly *Anno* 1647, Intituled, *Act diſchargeing the Importing, Vending or Spreading* of *Erroneous Books and Papers.* And moreover the General Aſſembly *Recommend* to the ſaids Judicatories, that in peruſeing of the ſaid Book, and enquireing anent the Spreading of the Errors therein contained, any thing found to fall under the *11th Act of the fifth Seſſion of the Current Parliament* or under any other Act of Parliament made againſt *Blaſphemy &c.* Be Repreſented to His Majeſtie's Advocat to the effect the ſaids Laws may be put to due Execution.

XI.

Sentence of Deposition against Dr. George Garden *in* Aberdeen.

At Edinburgh *the* 5*th Day of* March 1701. post Merid. Sess. 15.

THE which Day, the General Assembly of this National Church, takeing to their Consideration, the Proceedings of the Commission of the Late General Assembly, Appointed for visiting the Bounds of *Angus*, *Mearns*, *Aberdeen* *Murray*, and *Ross*, And finding a Process raised by the said Commission against Doctor *George Garden* in *Aberdeen*, and a Sentence of Suspension past by them against him upon weighty Grounds, with a Reference of him for further censure to this Assembly, to which he was Cited by Order of the said Commission: All which the foresaid Sentence do at more Length bear, and the Assembly having caused call the said Doctor *George Garden* several times at the most patent Door of the Church, and he not compearing, they entered upon the serious Consideration of the particular Grounds of the said Sentence of Suspension, and of the whole Proceedings of the said Commission in that Affair, And did, *Like-as* they hereby do, *Find*, That he has *not only* given Great Ground to suspect his being Tainted with Dangerous and Blasphemous Opinions, in causing a certain Book Called *An Apology for M. Antonia Bourignon* to be bound, and selling the same, , and causing it be sold by others for his use, and recommending the perusal thereof, without giving a Caveat against the Errors contained therein, and that he refused to disown his being the Author of that Book, when Questioned thereupon by the said Commission; And that he Likeways declined to give a positive answer, when asked by them if he judged *M. Antonia Bourignion* to have been Divinely Inspired as she pretends, *But also* that he hath given clear and evident Proof of his being led away with the spirit of Error and very gross Delusions, and Infected with Impious, Blasphemous and Damnable Error, by declaring openly before the said Commission, That the said Apology as to the Bulk of the Book, did Represent the Great End of Christianity, which is to bring us back to the Love of God and Charity, and further Declared, that the Essentials of Christianity, are Set doun in the said Book, and that the Accessories contained therein, are not contrary thereto, and further he added, that he had an high Esteem of the Writings that go under the Name

of *M. Antonia Burignon*; becauſe they repreſent the Eſſentials of Chriſtian Religion, and direct us to a Chriſtian Temper, with more Force and Vigour, than many Writings of this Age he had ſeen, and for her ſingular Sentiments, they ought not to be reckoned Hereſies, for they contradict no Article of the Chriſtian Religion, And further he ſubjoined that her Sentiments tended to Unite Chriſtians in their Differences and to promote the Goſpel of *Jeſus Chriſt*, and on that account he Values them, and Heartily Embraces them, and that the Deſign of the Apologiſt in repreſenting the Acceſſory Sentiments of *M. Antonia Burignon*, was to Vindicat them from the Miſrepreſentations of others, that the World may know what they are, yea, he had the Confidence to carry it ſo high before the ſaid Commiſſion as to ſay he counted it his honour to be ſingled out for owning the Principles of *M. Antonia Burignon* which have ſuch a tendency to promote Chriſtian Love and Charity, The Aſſembly alſo finds, that the Writings which go under the Name of the ſaid *M. Antonia Burignion* are fraughted with Impious, Pernicious, and Damnable Doctrines, as they are repreſented in the very *Apology*, that Exhibites to the World an Epitome of them in the Faireſt Dreſs, ſuch as 1*mo*. The Denying of the Permiſſion of Sin, and the Infliction of Damnation and Vengeance for it. 2*do*. The Aſcribing to Chriſt a two-fold Humane Nature, one of which was produced of *Adam* before the Woman was Formed, the other born of the Virgin *Mary*. 3*tio*. The denying of the Decrees of Election and Reprobation, and the Loading of thoſe Acts of Grace and Soveraignity with a multitude of Odious and Blaſphemous Aſperſions, particularly, Wickedneſs, Cruelty and Reſpect of Perſons. 4*to*. That there is a good Spirit and an Evil Spirit in the Souls of all Men before they are born. 5*to*. That the Will of Man is Unlimited, and that there muſt be in Man ſome Infinite Quality whereby he may Unite himſelf to God. 6*to*. The denying of the Doctrine of Divine *Preſcience*. 7*mo*. The Aſſertion of the ſinful corruption of Chriſts Humane Nature, and a Rebellion in Chriſts Natural Will, to the Will of *God*. And 8*vo*. The Aſſerting a State of Perfection in this Life, and a State of Purification in the Life to come, That Generation takes place in Heaven, That there are no true Chriſtians in the World, and ſeveral other Errors contained in the ſaid Book, *Upon* which Grounds, Together with his *Contumacy* in not appearing before this Aſſembly, The General Aſſembly of this National Church after mature Deliberation, being moved with Love to the Truth of God, and Zeal for His Glory, as alſo an erneaſt deſire for purging this Kirk of *Error* and *Hereſy*, and every thing that is contrary to ſound Doctrine,

rine, *Did* and hereby *do*, *Ratify* and *Confirm* the Sentence of *Suſpenſion* paſt by the ſaid Commiſſion againſt the ſaid *Dr. George Garden*, And further Did, and hereby do, In the Name and Authority of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, the Head and King of the Church, and the only Lord and Law-Giver of the ſame, according to the power Intruſted by Him to them, and His peremptory Command, Actually *Depoſe* the ſaid *Dr. George Garden*, from the Office of the Miniſtry, *Prohibiting* and *Diſcharging* him from Exerciſeing the ſame, or any part thereof in all time coming under pain of the higheſt Cenſures of the Church, *Appointing* publick Intimation to be made hereof from all the Pulpits in the Synod of *Aberdeen*, after Sermon in the Forenoon, upon ſuch a *Lords-Day* as the ſaid Synod ſhall appoint.

XII.

Approbation of the Actings and Proceedings of the Cousmiſſion ſent by the Laſt Aſſembly to Zetland, Orknay, *and* Caithneſs.

At Edinburgh, *the 5th of March* 1701.

Poſt Meridiem Seſſ: 15.

THE General Aſſembly having this day, had reproduced before them the Regiſter of the Actings and *Proceedings* of the Commiſſioners ſent by the Late General Aſſembly for Viſitation of the Bounds of the *Presbyteries* of *Zetland Orknay*, and *Caithneſs*, and having heard the Report and Obſerves of a Committee of this Aſſemblies own Number, appointed to Reviſe conſider and Examine the ſaid Regiſter, with the anſwers made thereto, by the Moderator and other Members of that Commiſſion, They were removed, and the General Aſſembly having ſeriouſly and maturely conſidered the ſame, And finding by the ſaid Report, That the Actings *Proceedings* and Concluſions of the ſaids Commiſſioners contained in their Regiſter now produced Subſcribed by Mr. *James Hart* Moderator, and Mr. *John Sandilands* Clerk thereto, Beginning upon the eighteen Day of *April* laſt, and ending the twenty fourth day of *June* thereafter, conſiſting of 190 pages, do evidence the great pains and Diligence of the ſaids Commiſſioners, and the great Danger they were expoſed to, in their Voyage by Sea, and Likeways the Fatigue they had by Land, in Travelling to accompliſh the deſign they were ſent on, and that they have proceeded Orderly and Formally in the things that came before them, according

according to their Commiſſion and Inſtructions, and thereby given proof of their Wiſdom, Prudence, Faithfulneſs and Zeal; Therefore this General Aſſembly by their Vote unanimouſly did, and hereby do Ratify and Approve the Actings, Proceedings and Concluſions of the ſaids Commiſſioners contained in their Regiſter; And the members of the ſaid Commiſſion being called in, the premiſſes were Intimate to them, and the Moderator according to appointment gave them the Thanks of this Aſſembly for their good Service.

XIII.

Approbation of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commiſſion ſent by the laſt Aſſembly, to Angus, Mearns, Aberdeen, Murray *and* Roſs.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly having this Day had Reproduced before them, the Regiſter of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commiſſioners ſent by the late Aſſembly, for Viſitation of the Bounds of the Presbytries in the Provinces of *Angus*, *Mearns*, *Aberdeen*, *Murray*, *Roſs and Sutherland*, and having heard the Report and Obſerves of a Committee of this Aſſemblies own Nuuber appointed to Reviſe, Conſider and Examine the ſaid Regiſter, with the Anſwers made thereto by the Moderator, and other members of that Commiſſion, They were Removed, And the General Aſſembly having maturely Conſidered the ſame, And finding by the ſaid Report. that the Actings, Proceedings and Concluſions of the ſaids Commiſſioners, contained in their Regiſter now produced, ſubſcribed by Mr. *Patrick Cuming* Moderator and *Mr. Hugh White* Clerk thereto, begining upon the Twelth Day of *June* laſt, and ending upon the Twenty Second Day of *Auguſt* thereafter conſiſting of 190. pages, Do evidence much Wiſdom, Prudence, Diligence, Zeal, and Faithfulneſs, and that the ſaids Commiſſioners have proceeded Orderly and Formally in every thing according to their Commiſſion and Inſtructions; Therefore this General Aſſembly by their Vote Unanimouſly Did, and hereby do, Ratify and Approve the Actings, Proceedings and Concluſions of the ſaids Commiſſioners contained in the Regiſter thereof, And the members of the ſaid Commiſſion being called in, the ſame was Intimat to them, and the *Moderator* according to appointment gave them the thanks of this Aſſembly for their Good Service.

Act

XIV.

Act againſt Perſons who ſhall be Irregularly Licenced or Ordained.

At Edinburgh, *the 7th. Day of* March 1701. *ante merid.* Seſſ. 18.

THE General Aſſembly, upon Report of their Committee for Overtures, Did by their Vote, and hereby do *Enact* and *Declare*, That any Perſons who ſhall for hereafter, Receive either Licence or Ordination from any of the late Prelates, or any others not allowed by the Authority of the Church, ſhall be uncapable of Miniſterial Communion for the ſpace of Three Years ſimpliciter, and even after that time, ay and while the Presbytry to which he ſhall apply be ſatisfied concerning his Repentance.

XV.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Elders, for planting Vacant Kirks and other Affairs Remitted to them.

At Edinburgh, *the 8th. Day of* March 1701. *ante merid.* Seſſ. 20.

THE General Aſſembly conſidering, That there are yet ſome Vacant Churches on the North ſide of *Tay*, As likewayes, that there are yet ſeveral weighty Affairs, which this Aſſembly cannot overtake, Do therefore find it needful, that there be a Commiſſion granted to ſome Miniſters and Elders for planting theſe Vacant Churches, and doing what other Affairs ſhall be referred to them; And for that end do hereby Nominate Commiſſionate and Appoint Mr. *Robert Eliot* Miniſter at *Kinglaſſie*, Mr. *Edward Jamiſon* at *Monymeal*, Mr. *John Anderſon* Principal of the Leonardine Colledge of *St. Andrews*, Mr. *William Mitchell* at *Dundee*, Mr. *Thomas Thomſon* at *Oldmachar*, Mr. *Hugh Anderſon* at *Cromarty*, Mr. *Gilbert Rule* Principal of the Colledge of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *George Campbell* Profeſſor of Divinity there, Mr. *William Crighton* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. *John Law* there, Mr. *George Hamilton* there Mr. *George Melarum* there, Mr. *David Williamſon* at *Weſt-Kirk*, Mr. *John Vetch*

at *Weſtruther*, Mr. *John Hardy* at *Gordon*, Mr. *John Bell* at *Smellum*, Mr. *William Calderwood* at *Legertwood*, Mr. *Gabriel Semple* at *Jedburgh*, Mr. *Thomas Shields* at *Sanquhair*, Mr. *Thomas Vernor* at *Balmaclellund*, Mr. *Hugh Campbell* at *Murekirk* of *Kyle*, Mr. *Patrick Simpſon* at *Renfrew*, Mr. *James Hutchiſon* at *Killallan*, Mr. *Duncan Campbell* at *Roſneth*, Mr. *Robert Rule* at *Stirling*, Mr. *Thomas Lowis* at *Henderlithen*, Mr. *Allan Logan* at *Torriburn*, Mr. *Andrew Thomſon* at *Orwall*, Mr. *Archibald Riddel* at *Kirkcaldie*, Mr. *Andrew Wardroper* there, Mr. *James Pitcarne* at *Kettle*, Mr. *George Anderſon* at Mr. *Thomas Forreſter* Principal of the New Colledge of *St. Andrews*, Mr. *James Hadow* Profeſſor of Divinity there, Mr. *John Anderſon* Junior at *St. Andrews*, Mr. *Samuel Johnſton* at *Dundee*, Mr. *John Ferguſon* at *Aberbrothick*, Mr. *James Ramſay* at *Bendochie*, Mr. *Francis Melvill* at *Arburthnet*, Mr. *James Oſburne* Profeſſor of Theologie at *Aberdeen*, Mr. *Thomas Blackwall* there, Mr. *Andrew Guthrie* at *Peterhead*, Mr. *Alexander Forbes* at *Dyck*, Mr. *James Thomſon* at *Elgine*, Mr. *John Urquhart* at *Urquhart*, Mr. *Hugh Monroe* at *Tarbat*, Mr. *Walter Denoon* at *Golſpie*, Mr. *William Innes* at *Thurſo*, Mr. *James Graham*, at *Holm*, Mr. *William Binning* at *Tingwall*, Mr. *Thomas Wilkie* at *Cannongate*, Mr. *David Blair* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. *George Andrews* there, Mr. *James Hart* at *Rattho*, Mr. *George Barclay* at *Uphall*, Mr. *Thomas Miller* at *Kirkliſtoun*. Mr. *William Burnet* at *Falkirk*, Mr. *James Thomſon* at *Peebles*, Mr. *Robert Livingſtone* at *Biggar*, Mr. *John Sandilands* at *Dolphingtoun*, Mr. *Patrick Cuming* at *Ormiſtoun*, Mr. *William Traill* at *Borthwick*, Mr. *Matthew Selkrig* at *Chrichton*, Mr. *David Walker* at *Temple*, Mr. *James Clerk* at *Dirletoun*, Mr. *Matthew Reid* at *North-Berwick*, Mr. *Andrew Brown* at *Spot*, Mr. *George Turnbul* at *Tyninghame*, Mr. *Archibald Borthwick* at *Greenlaw*, Mr. *James Ramſay* at *Eyemouth*, Mr. *John Pow* at *Lennel*, Mr. *John Goudy* at *Sprowſtoun*, Mr. *John Glen* at *Stitchel*, Mr. *George Johnſtoun* at *Erſletoun*, Mr. *Alexander Colden* at *Oxnam*, Mr. *Robert Wilſon* at *Melroſs*, Mr *Hugh Craig* at *Gallaſheils*, Mr. *William Vetch* at *Drumfrees*, Mr. *Alexander Robertſon* at *Tinnel*, Mr. *James Elder* at *Kier*, Mr. *Patrick Home* at *Kirkmichael*, Mr. *George Mullikine* at *Moffat*, Mr. *James Armſtrang* at *Cannabee*, Mr. *Robert Rowan* at *Pennynghame*, Mr. *Andrew Cameron* at *Kircubright*, Mr. *Alexander Telfer* at *Rerrick*, Mr. *Robert Colvil* at *Glenluce*, Mr. *Andrew Rodger* at *Galſtoun*, Mr. *Henry Osburn* at *Torboltoun*, Mr. *James Gilchriſt* at *Kirkmichael*, Mr. *Matthew Baird* at *Monktoun*, Mr. *Patrick Vernor* at *Irvine*, Mr. *John Glaſgow* at *Kilbirny*, Mr. *Robert Wyllie* at *Hamiltoun*, Mr. *John Ore* at *Bothwel*, Mr. *Thomas Linning* at *Leſmehago*, Mr. *John Scot* at *Carluke*, Mr. *James Hay* at *Kilsyth*, Mr. *John Pittigrew* at *Govan*, Mr. *John Stirline*

line at *Greenock*, Mr. *John Ritchy* at *Old-Kilpatrick*, Mr. *Daniel Campbel* at *Kilmichael* of *Glassery*, Mr. *Daniel Mckay* at *Inverary*, Mr. *Daniel Mclaurie* at *Kilfinnen*, Mr. *John Darroch* at *Craigneish*, Mr. *Dougal Campbel* at *Southend*, Mr. *John Morison* at *Glenalg*, Mr. *Samuel Nairn* at *Errol*, Mr. *John Tullidelph* at *Dumbarnie*, Mr. *Alexander Glass* at *Kincleven*, Mr. *William Spence* at *Fossoway*, Mr. *William Chalmers* at *Monzy*, Mr. *John Forrester* at *Stirline*, Mr. *Hugh White* at *Larbert*, Mr. *Alexander Douglass* at *Logy*, Mr. *Michael Potter* at *Dumblane* Ministers. *George* Earl of *Melvil* Lord President of the Council, *George* Earl of *Sutherland*, *John* Earl of *Tullibardine*, *John* Earl of *Rutherglen*, *William* Lord *Forbes*, *Robert* Lord *Burleigh*, *James* Master of *Carmichael*, Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* of *Northberwick* Lord President of the Session, Sir *James Stewart* of *Goodtrees* His Majesties Advocat, *Adam Cockburn* of *Ormistoun* Lord Thesaurer Depute, Sir *Coline Campbel* of *Aberuchel*, Sir *John Hamiltoun* of *Halcraig*, Sir *David Home* of *Crossrig*, three of the Senators of the Colledge of Justice, Mr. *John Campbel* Brother to the Earl of *Argyle*, Mr. *Francis Montgomery* of *Giffane* Brother to the Earl of *Eglingtoun*, Lieutenent Colonel *John Erskine* Governour of *Dumbartoun* Castle, Sir *John Swintoun* of that Ilk, Sir *John Clerk* of *Pennycook*, Sir *William Baird* of *Newbaith*, Sir *Andrew Kennedy* of *Cloburn*, Sir *David Stewart* of *Kirkfield*, Sir *William Denholm* of *Westsheilds*, *William Baillie* of *Lamingtoun*, *James Brody* of that Ilk, *George Dundass* of that Ilk, *Adam Drummond* of *Meggins*, *Duncan Forbes* of *Colloden*, *William Fullertoun* of that Ilk, *James Pringle* of *Buckholme*, Mr. *James Bosewal* of *Auchinleck* Advocat, Captain *John Erskine*, Sir *Patrick Johnstoun* Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, *John Scrimzeour* of *Kirktoun* Provost of *Dundee*, *John Allardice* Provost of *Abredeen*, *John Anderson* of *Dowhil* Provost of *Glasgow*, *Robert Arbuthnet* late Provost of *Montrose*, Sir *James Mclurg* Dean of Gild of *Edinburgh*, *Gideon Eliot* Deacon Conveener there, and Mr. *Robert Cook* Advocat, *Ruling Elders*; To be Commissioners of the General Assembly to the Effect before and aftermentioned, with full Power and Commission to the saids Persons or their Quorum, which is hereby Declared to be any Fifteen of the saids Commissioners, whereof Nine are always to be Ministers To meet and Conveen within the Assembly-House at *Edinburgh*, the first day after the Dissolution of this Assembly at Ten Hours in the Forenoon, and afterwards to meet the first Wednesdays of *June*, *September*, *December*, and first Tuesday of *March*, and ofter where and when they shall think Needful and Convenient, with full Power to the said Commission to chuse their own Moderator. And sicklike The General Assembly fully Empowers and Authorizes the saids Commissioners or their Quorum to Consider, Cognosce, and Finally

nally Determine as they ſhall ſee cauſe, in everything contained in, and conform to the Inſtructions given them by this Aſſembly, as Fully and Freely as if the ſame were in theſe preſents at full length Inſert and Set Down, As alſo to Conſider, Cognoſce and Finally Determine in all References, Appeals, and other matters particularly referred to them by any order of this Aſſembly, all which is holden as herein expreſt; And the General Aſſembly doth hereby prohibite and Diſcharge the ſaids Commiſſioners to meddle in any other matters than what is herein contained; Declaring alſo, That in and for their Actings, they ſhall be comptable to, and cenſuerable by the next enſueing General Aſſembly of this Church. And laſtly, Declares, that this Commiſſion ſhall continue until the meeting of the next General Aſſembly.

XVI.

Inſtructions by the General Aſſembly to their Commiſſion.

Eadem Seſſione.

1. THAT this Commiſſion, as often as they ſhall ſee cauſe, apply to the Government, or any *Magiſtrat*, for their Countenanceing of, and concurring with the Judicatories of the Church, in what the Law allows, and for putting the Laws in Execution againſt Prophaneneſs, Regulating the Poor by providing *Maintainance*, and Labour for them, and particularly anent ſettleing Vacant Congregations, and Redreſſing any Greivances which may fall out.

2. That when any of the Miniſters who ſerved under the late Prelacy, whoſe Lives and Doctrines may render them uſeful to this Church, do apply for Reception into a ſhare of the Government of the Church, The General Aſſembly do Impower and Recommend to their Commiſſion to receive them, according to the 13 Parag. of the 16 *Act* of the General Aſſembly *Anno* 1697 : And that the ſaid Commiſſion be careful to get due Information from the Presbyteries where the ſaid perſon applying does, or did officiat, and for the time reſides.

3. That this Commiſſion in diſpoſal of His *Majeſtie's* Gifts to this Church, do particularly take care, that the Encouragement granted by the General Aſſembly *Anno* 1699. to *Probationers* who are to go North to *Preach* be rendered effectual; and that they cauſe defray the Extraordinary Charges that ſeveral Miniſters of the North have been at, in carrying on the planting of Churches, and other publick Affairs of the Church there.

4. The

4. The said Commission is to cognosce, and finally determine in all References already made, or to be made to them by this Assembly, and in all References and Appeals for Transporting Ministers to the North, which shall be orderly brought before them, according to the Overtures made thereanent by the General Assembly, *anno* 1699.

5. This Commission is also to correspond with the State anent Fasts and Thanksgivings, as occasion requires, and to specify the Causes thereof.

6. This Commission is to give advice and assistance to any Synod or Presbytery in difficult cases, as they shall be applyed unto by them for that effect: As also this Commission is Impowered to proceed according to the *7th.* Act of the General Assembly 1700. made in favours of the Presbyteries of *Caithness*, *Orkney*, and *Zetland*.

7. This Commission is Impowered to enquire how Ministers transported by former Assemblies and their Commissions, or by this General Assembly and their Commission have obeyed, or shall obey, and in case of disobedience, that they suspend the disobedient persons for Three *Moneths*, and in case they do not obey after these Three Moneths are elapsed, that then they be deposed *simpliciter*, and this particularly to be applyed in the case of Mr. *David Pitcairn* formerly Transported from *Creich* to *Forresse*, if he disobey.

8. This Commission is to give all due Encouragement and Assistance to any Proposals may be made to them, anent Endeavours for Reformation of Manners, and for the effectual curbing of Prophanity; and that they apply in a competent manner to the Government, for that end.

9. This Commission or their Moderator in the Intervals of the Commission, are empowered to receive Calls Legally proceeded in, and to transmit the same to the Respective Presbyteries interested. And in case of References or Appeals to the said Commission, That they proceed and finally determine therein, according to the former Acts of Assemblies for expediting Transportations to the *North*.

XVII.

Act for rendering effectual the Supplies of the North.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly taking to their Consideration, the 24 Act of the General Assembly 1700; For rendering Effectual the Supplies of the North, Do declare the

ſamen to ſtand ſtill in full force, and Refers to the Commiſſion to ſee to the Obſervation thereof.

XVIII.

Act againſt Intruderes into Kirks.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly Appoints Presbyteries to ſend in to the Commiſſion an Account of ſuch Miniſters or Preachers as Intrude into Pariſhes, That Application may be made to the Government for removeing them according to Law.

XIX.

Recommendation anent the more frequent Adminiſtration of the Lords Supper.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly Recommends to Presbyteries to take Care that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper be more frequently Adminiſtrat within their Bounds, and that the Number of Miniſters to ſerve thereat be reſtricted, So that neighbouring Churches be not thereby caſt deſolate on the Lords Day.

XX.

Act againſt Abuſes at Lykewakes, Penny-Brydalls, and Promiſcous Danceing.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly did, and hereby do Revive the Act of the General Aſſembly 1645: Againſt Lykewakes, as alſo the Act of the ſaid Aſſembly for reſtraining Abuſes at Penny-Brydalls, and Likeways the Act of the General Aſſembly *anno* 1649: Diſchargeing promiſcuous Danceing, and Appoints the ſaids Acts to be Read in Churches before the Congregation, and that Synods enquire at Presbyteries concerning their Diligence anent the Obſervation of the ſaids Acts, and Recommends to Presbyteries to have their Thoughts upon what further may be neceſſary for

for Suppressing and Preventing Abuses at such Occasions, and give their Opinion thereanent to the next General Assembly.

XXI.

OVERTURES, Transmitted by the General Assembly, Held in the Year 1701; *To the several Presbyteries, within this National Church; That they may Consider the same, and send their Opinion thereanent in Write to the next General Assembly, who may pass the same in Acts, if the more General Opinion of this Church agree thereunto.*

1 *Anent Scandalous Persons turning Popish.*

THAT in regaird some Persons when challenged for Scandal turn Popish, or pretend to do so, to evite Church-Censure, Therefore it be Enacted that the Church proceed to the Censure of Excommunication against such, after all due pains taken to Reclaim them prove ineffectual, and this to be intimate in all Churches within the Kingdom.

2 *Anent Protestants Marrying Papists.*

THAT in Regaird Protestants Marrying with Persons of a different Religion is against the Word of God, and of very dangerous Consequence if not timeously prevented, Therefore that the General Assembly Appoint Inferiour Judicatories, to take special Notice of such, and of Parents and Others who give Consent to such Marriages, and proceed against them even to the highest Censure of the Church, and that publick Intimation of the Premisses, be made in all the Churches within the Kingdom.

3 *Anent Excommunication.*

THAT Least the Sentence of Excommunication be despised, and that Persons may not converse with such, as if they were not Excommunicat: Therefore it be enacted That the Sentence of Excommunication being first Intimate through all the Churches within

the Presbytery where the ſaid Sentence was pronounced if the Perſon continue Obſtinat, That then the Presbytery give an account thereof to the Synod, who are to appoint the like Intimation to be made in all the Churches within their Bounds, and if notwithſtanding of this, and other due means uſed to Reclaim them, they ſhall continue Obſtinat, In that caſe an account of their Names, and Sentence paſt againſt them be brought by the Synod to the General Aſſembly, that they may appoint Intimation thereof to be made through all the Churches of the Nation, And that at all the foreſaid reſpective Intimations, Miniſters take occaſion to hold furth the ſad ſtate and condition of Excommunicat Perſons, and to Inform People how to carry towards them.

4. *Anent Irregular Abſolving of Scandalous perſons.*

That in Regaird ſome of the Epiſcopal Perſwaſion, who have no Paſtoral Relation to any Congregation, take upon them to Abſolve in corners Perſons under Publick Scandal, and that others of them who poſſeſs Churches take upon them to Abſolve Perſons in other Congregations, Therefore it be Enacted that the Kirk Seſſion and Presbytery within whoſe Bounds the foreſaid Scandalous Perſons have their Reſidence, Declare that Perſons in the foreſaid Circumſtances are ſtill lying under Scandal, and that they proceed againſt them accordingly, and that the Miniſter of what Perſwaſion ſoever who ſo Abſolveth, be Cenſured by the Presbytery of the Bounds.

5. *Anent Students paſſing Tryals.*

That more ſtrict notice be taken of ſuch as paſs their Tryals in order to the Miniſtry, and for that end. 1*mo.* That it be Recommended to Presbyteries by the General Aſſembly, That they obſerve the Act of the General Aſſembly anent the Age of ſuch. 2*do.* That more pains be taken to enquire into the Evidences of their Piety. 3*tio.* That the Catechetick Tryals be not perfunctoriouſly gone about, and that ſome Miniſters be appointed to Examine them upon the ſeveral heads of Divinity, and the Government of the Church, and to know what reaſon they can give for their Faith and Sentiments in theſe matters, and how they can Anſwer ſome Principal Objections, and that this be not done haſtily, but that a particular competent time be allowed for that purpoſe. 4*to.* That there be one Tryal alſo given to Probationers of their Gifts as to Lecturing.

6. *Againſt*

6. *Against Prophaneness with a Reference to the Commission.*

That for the more Effectual Restraining Prophaneness and Immorality, and exact Execution of the Laws against them, It be Recomended to the Commission to Appoint some of their Number with the Clerk, to draw out an Abstract of all Acts of Assemblies to that purpose, both before and since the Revolution, which being Revised and Approven by the whole Commission at their Quarterly meeting in *June*, may by them be ordered to be Printed together with the abstract of the Acts of Parliament against Prophaneness in a small Volume, and each Presbytry enjoyned twice a year at least, at diets appointed *in hunc effectum* to read these, and enquire at each Minister what is done by him for the Execution thereof, and every Synod take a strict account of Presbytries their Diligence and Faithfulness therein: And likeways that it be Recommended to all Presbytries to think seriously what may be further needful for Restraining of Wickedness, and Advancement of Piety, and the Kingdom of Christ in the Nation, and send in their Overtures concerning the same to the next Assembly, who may take these to their serious consideation, and make this their cheif and first Work. The General Assembly having heard the abovewriten Overture, Do Transmit the same to the several Presbytries, and in the mean time Recommend to their Commission to see to the the drawing out of an Abstract of the Acts of Assembly and Parliament as is abovementioned.

XXII.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is to be held at *Edinburgh* the *sixth* day of *March* in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Two.

The Assembly being Closed the Members were Dismissed with Prayer Singing the 132. *Psalm, from the* 11*th Verse to the Close, And pronounceing of the Blessing.*

Collected and Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, By me

Dav. Dundas *Cls.*

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AFter Sermon by Mr. *David Blair* Moderator of the last Assembly, The General Assembly did conveen; And being opened by him, Mr. *Thomas Wilkie* one of the Ministers of the *Cannongate* was chosen Moderator. *Sess.* 1.

Mr. *David Dundass* Advocat chosen Clerk to the General Assembly and Commissions thereof. *Ibid.*

Nicol Spence continued Sub-Clerk to the General Assembly and Commissions thereof *sicut ante*. *Ibid.*

The Commissioner's and Moderator's Speeches at opening of the General Assembly. *Ibid.*

Committee for drawing an Answer to His Majesties Gracious Letter. *Ibid.*

Committee for Overtures. *Ibid.*

Committee for Bills, References and Appeals. *Ibid.*

Committee for controverted Elections and Commissions and Nominating Ministers to Preach before the Commissioner, and supplying the vice of the Moderator and Ministers of *Edinburgh*, who are Members of this Assembly. *Ib.*

Committee for Revising the proceedings of the Commission appointed by the late General Assembly to meet at *Edinburgh*. *Ibid.*

Committee for Revising the proceedings of the Commission appointed by the late General Assembly for visiting the Provinces of *Angus*, *Mearns*, *Aberdeen*, *Murray*, *Ross* and *Sutherland*. *Ibid*

Committee for Revising the proceedings of the Commission appointed by the late General Assembly for visiting the bounds of the Presbyteries of *Zetland*, *Orkney* and *Caithness*. *Ibid.*

Appointment of a Dyet for publick Prayer. *Ibid.*

A Dyet spent in Prayer. *Sess.* 2.

Mr. *John Chalmers* Minister, and Sir *Andrew Kennedy* Lord Conservator Ruling Elder Commissioners from the *Scots* Kirk at *Campvere* to this Assembly being present, were taken notice of by the Moderator in name of the Assembly, and that Kirk encouraged to continue in sending Commissioners to General Assemblies conform to Act of Assembly 1641. *Sess.* 3.

The University of *Glasgow* excused for not sending a Commissioner to the General Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Letter from the Presbytery of *Zetland* Read, and they excused for not sending a Commissioner to this Assembly. *Ibid*

Committee for Reviſing the Books of the Presbytries of *Zetland*, *Caithneſs* and *Roſs*, and Synod Books of *Fiſſe*, *Aberdeen*, *Lothian*, *Merſe*, *Drumfrees*, *Galloway*, *Glaſgow*, *Perth and Argyle*. *Ibid.*

The Presbytry of *Murray* appointed to bring their Book to the next General Aſſembly with Certification. *Ibid.*

Report from the Committee for controverted Commiſſions read and approven, and it was Recommended to Presbytries Burghs and Univerſities to obſerve the Formula anent Commiſſions, recommended by the General Aſſembly 1695. As alſo the Act of the General Aſſembly 1698. *Ibid.*

Committee for Reviſing the proceedings of the Commiſſion ſent by the late General Aſſembly to the Presbytry of *Midlebee*. *Ibid.*

Committee for conſidering the ſtate of the Church in the *North* and *Highlands*. *Ibid.*

Committee for receiving the Liſts of Probationers. *Ibid.*

Recommendation in favours of *Agnes Campbel* Relict of *Andrew Anderſon*, for her Encouragement in her Undertaking to Print the Works of Mr. *James Durhame*, and Mr. *John Flavel*, as was formerly granted by the late Aſſembly concerning Mr. *Pool's* Annotations. *Seſſ.* 4.

Committee for Reviſing the Regiſter of the Presbytry of *Orknay*. *Seſſ.* 5.

Committee for drawing the Reaſons of a Solemn National Faſt. *Idid.*

Committee for conſidering an affair concerning Dr. *George Garden* in *Aberdeen*. *Ibid.*

Act Rejecting a proceſs concerning the Tranſportation of Mr. *William Mitchel* from *Dundee* to *Coupar* in *Fiſſe*. *Ibid.*

Act Tranſporting Mr. *Joſeph Drew* Miniſter from *Newmunkland* to *Markinſh*. *Seſſ.* 6.

Recommendation to the Commiſſion of Parliament for Plantation of Kirks, anent the Disjunction and Annexation of ſome parts of Pariſhes in the Presbytry of *Auchterarder*. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſioner from the Univerſity of St. *Andrews* excuſed for not attending the General Aſſembly. *Seſſ.* 7.

Act Tranſporting Mr. *John Gib* Miniſter from *Muckart* to *Cleiſh*. *Ibid.*

Act Tranſporting Mr. *Robert Baillie* Miniſter from *Lamingtoun* to *Inverneſs*. *Seſſ.* 9.

Committee for conſidering a Reference anent Dr. *George Midleton* in the Kings Colledge of Old *Aberdeen*. *Ibid.*

Liſt of Probationers brought in by the Committee. *Seſſ.* 10.

Act anent the Settlement of Mr. *James Fleeming* in the pariſh of *Monydie*. *Ibid.*

Act

Act appointing Mr. *Alexander King* to remove from *Bonil*, and to go and be admitted Miniſter of *Elgine*, conform to a Sentence of the Commiſſion of the laſt Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

Act Tranſporting Mr. *William Hardy* Miniſter from *Crail* to the City of St. *Andrews*. *Seſſ.* 11.

Act Rejecting an Appeal anent the Tranſportation of Mr. *Archbald Riddel* from *Kircaldy* to *Hownam*. *Ibid.*

Act appointing Mr. *John Paiſley* to remove from *Lochquinnoch*, and to go and be admitted Miniſter of *Aberdeen*, conform to a Sentence of the Commiſſion of the laſt Aſſembly. *Seſſ.* 12.

Recommendation in favours of the Lord *Semple* to the Presbytry of *Paiſley*, Synod of *Glaſgow*, and Commiſſion anent the ſpeedy planting of the Pariſh of *Lochquhinnoch*. *Ibid.*

Advice to the Presbytry of *Drumfrees* anent Mr. *Hugh Clany*. *Ibid.*

Committee for Nameing the Members of the Commiſſion and drawing their Commiſſion and Inſtructions. *Seſſ.* 13.

Act anent the Supply of *Aberdeen* until Mr. *John Paiſleys* admiſſion. *Ibid.*

Act anent Mr. *Andrew Cumings* going to the Presbytry of *Aberdeen*, and a Reference to the Commiſſion anent him. *Ibid.*

Mr. *Andrew Broun* and Mr. *David Walker* appointed to correſpond with the the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*. *Ibid.*

Act in favours of Four Probationers in the United Presbytries of *Perth* and *Dunkeld*. *Ibid.*

Act disjoyning the pariſh of *Innerkethnie* from the province of *Murray*, and annexing the ſame to the Presbytry of *Turreff*, and Province of *Aberdeen*, for ſome time. *Ibid.*

Act appointing the Commiſſions of the General Aſſembly to Nominat Miniſters to Preach before the Parliament. *Ibid.*

Commiſſion to ſome Members of Aſſembly to apply to the Council for their Civil Sanction to the Faſt. *Seſſ.* 14.

Act in favours of Mr. *William Ker* late Miniſter at *Oldmunkland* for his Maintainance. *Ibid.*

Act and Reference anent Dr. *George Midleton* Principal of the Kings Colledge of *Aberdeen*. *Seſſ.* 15.

Reference to the Commiſſion in favours of Mr. *John Sandilands* and Mr. *Hugh White* Clerks to the Commiſſions ſent North. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion anent Mr. *Robert Roſs* and Mr. *Donald Forbes*. *Ibid*

Reference to the Commiſſion anent *Papiſts* in the bounds of *Murray Roſs* and *Sutherland*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion anent *Strathſpey*. *Ibid.*
Reference to the Commiſſion anent the Regiſters in the Presbyteries of *Angus* and *Mearns*. *Ibid.*
Act Reuniting the Pariſh of *Kells* to the Presbytery of *Kircubright*. *Ibid.*
Reference to the Synod of *Fiſſe*, anent an Appeal made by Mr. *George Mair* and others, with relation to the Call of *Culroſs*, to Mr. *Thomas Buchanan*. *Ibid.*
Remit to the Presbytery of *Zetland* anent *James Mowat* Adulterer. *Ibid.*
Reference to the Commiſſion anent writing to the Juſtices of Peace in *Zetland &c.* *Seſſ.* 16
Reference to the Commiſſion in favours of the Town of *Lerwick* in *Zetland* anent Erecting a Kirk there. *Ibid.*
Recommendation to the Commiſſion in favourrs of Mr. *William Staige*. *Ibid.*
Reference to the Commiſſion anent *George Broom*. *Ibid.*
Report of theſe appointed to apply to the Council anent a Faſt. *Seſſ.* 17.
Dimiſſion of Mr. *Theodore Umphray* accepted. *Ibid.*
Synod Book of *Fiſſe* appointed to be filled up and ſubſcribed by the Moderator and Clerk and preſented to the next Aſſembly. *Ibid.*
Atteſtation of the Book of the Synod of the united Provinces of *Angus Mearns* and *Aberdeen*. *Ibid.*
The Regiſter of the proceedings of the united Presbyteries *Roſs* and *Sutherland* approven, but the Book ordered to be Subſcribed by their Moderator and Clerk, and a Letter written thereanent. *Ibid.*
Acts atteſting the Books of the Presbyteries of *Caithneſs*, *Orkney* and *Zetland*, with a Reference to the Commiſſion anent writing to the Presbytery of *Zetland*. *Ibid.*
Acts atteſting the Books of the Synods of *Louthian* and *Tweeddale*, *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, *Glaſgow*, and *Air*, and *Argyle*. *Seſſ.* 18,
Synod Book of *Galloway* ordered to be Tranſcribed. *Ibid*
Synod Book of *Drumfrees* not being produced was ordered to be preſented to the next General Aſſembly. *Ibid.*
The Synod Book of *Perth* and *Stirling* formerly ordered to be Tranſcribed, becauſe of ſome Interlinings, being now produced and reviſed was approven. *Ibid.*
Reference anent the meeting of the Synod of *Argyle*. *Ibid*
Approbation of the proceedings of the Commiſſion ſent by the laſt Aſſembly to *Midlebee*. *Ibid.*
Reference to the Commiſſion in favours of Mr. *James Moffat*. *Ibid.*
Reference to the Commiſſion anent Mr. *Thomas Henderſon*. *Ib.*
The 16 Act of the General Aſſembly 1699. Concerning the *Iriſh* Bibles and Committee thereanent renewed, *Seſſ.* 19

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Act anent Mr. *Hector Monro* and Mr. *Daniel Mackilliken* Probationers, and Mr. *Alexander Frazer* Student, having the *Iriſh* Language, with a Reference to the Commiſſion anent them and other Probationers. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion anent planting *Hownane*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion anent the Call of *Auchterhouſe* to Mr. *Thomas Frazer*, with a direction to the Presbyterie of *Dundee* anent him. *Ibid.*

References to the Commiſſion anent planting *Craill*, *Alloa*, and the Vacancies in the Kirks of *Edinburgh*. *Seſſ.* 20

Reference to the Commiſſion anent Application to His Majeſty anent a Stipend to the Miniſter of *Fortroſe*. *Ibid.*

Remit to the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling* anent the Petitions of Mr. *John Cuming* and the pariſh of *St. Madois*, with directions to the united Presbyteries of *Perth* and *Dunkeld* anent him. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion concerning ſeveral Overtures anent *Orkney*, and particularly anent Mr. *Alexander Youngſon*, and the dilapidation of Stipends *&c.* in that Country, and anent ruinous Kirks and Manſes. *Seſſ.* 21

Reference to the Commiſſion concerning a Repreſentation given in to them anent *Zetland*, with ſome Overtures thereanent. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion anent Emolumentary Writes and addreſſing the Parliament concerning their making up the loſs ſuſtained by burning the Regiſters and Papers that were in the cuſtody of Mr. *John Buchan*. *Ibid.*

Act approving the procedure of the Commiſſion of the laſt Aſſembly concerning the Affair betwixt Mr. *Charles Gordon* and Sir *Gilbert Eliot*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion anent the Petitions of ſome concerned in the pariſh of *Salt-Preſton*, and a Petition for Mr. *Andrew Reid*. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to the Agent anent the Manſe and Gleib of *Luſs*. *Ibid*

Recommendation to the Old Miniſters concerned in the King's Gift of the Biſhops Rents Cropt 1690. In Favours of *Katharine* and *Mathilda Adams*. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to the Synods of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale* *Louthian* and *Tweeddale*, in favours of *Euphane Dove*. *Ibid*

Recommendation in favours of *William Simmie* to the Synods of *Glaſgow* and *Air*, *Perth* and *Stirling*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion anent *Thomas Scot* of *Chappel* *Ibid*

The Petition of Mr. *Hugh Clanie* rejected, in regaird the ſame was not preſented by himſelf, nor any perſon having commiſſion from him. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion anent Mr. *Hugh Mackhenoy*. Ib.

Reference to the Commission anent planting the parish of *Kinnaird*. Ibid
Reference to the Commission anent Mr. *William Frazer*. Ib.
Reference to the Commission anent *John Stewart*. Ibid.
The Committee of the last Assembly for considering and preparing the Overtures anent the method of procedure in Church Judicatories renewed and some added thereto. Ibid.
Reference to the Commission anent Mr. *Theodore Umphray*. Ib
Reference anent planting the Kirk of *Bellie* and Vacant Kirks in the province of *Angus* and *Mearns*. Ibid.
Reference to the Commission anent the proceedings of the Committee sent to *Drumfrees* and *Galloway*. Ibid.
Recommendation to Synods and Presbytries to send in an account of the Highland parishes within their bounds to the next General Assembly. Ibid.
Recommendation anent the Deficients in bringing in their Collections, for repairing the Bridge of *Ancrum*. Ibid.
A Letter ordered to be written to *Mr. David Pitcairn*. Ibid.
Reference to the Commission anent the Clerks Salary. Ib.
Act appointing the Register and Papers belonging to the General Assembly and Commissions thereof, to be delivered up to the Clerk. Ibid.
Committee for Reviseing the Minuts and Printing the Acts of this Assembly.

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